



100 Years of SOCCER IN AMERICA

The Official Book of the U.S. Soccer Federation

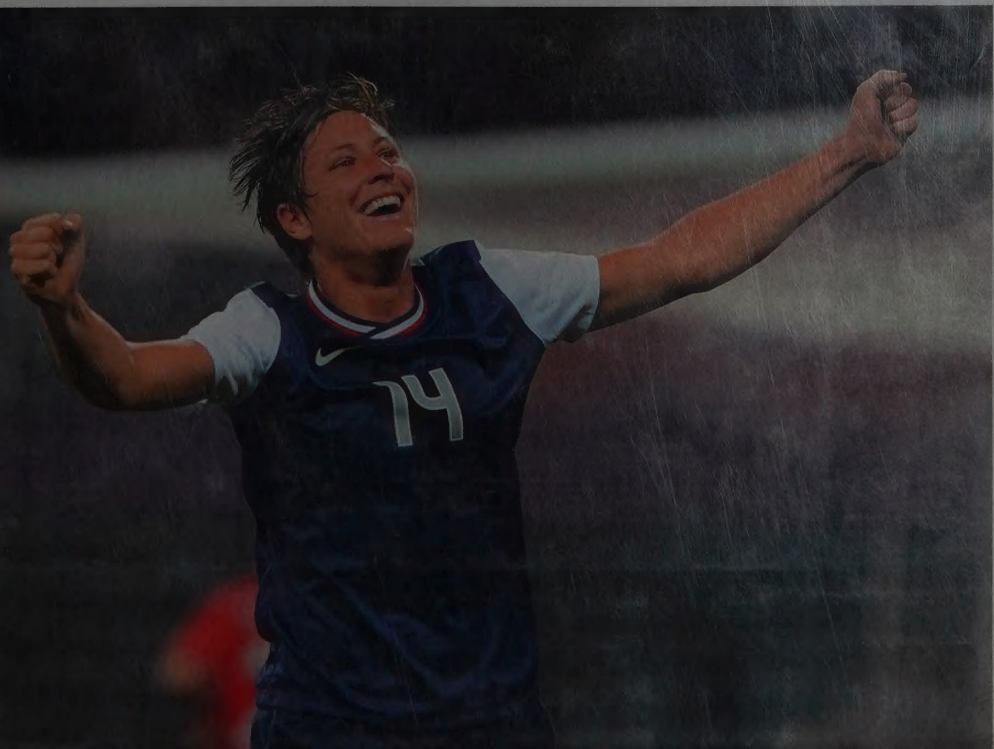
FOREWORD BY
U.S. Soccer President
Sunil Gulati

PREFACE BY
President Bill Clinton

WITH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM
Bruce Arena, Tony DiCicco,
Landon Donovan,
Alexi Lalas, Mia Hamm,
and Abby Wambach



UNIVERSE



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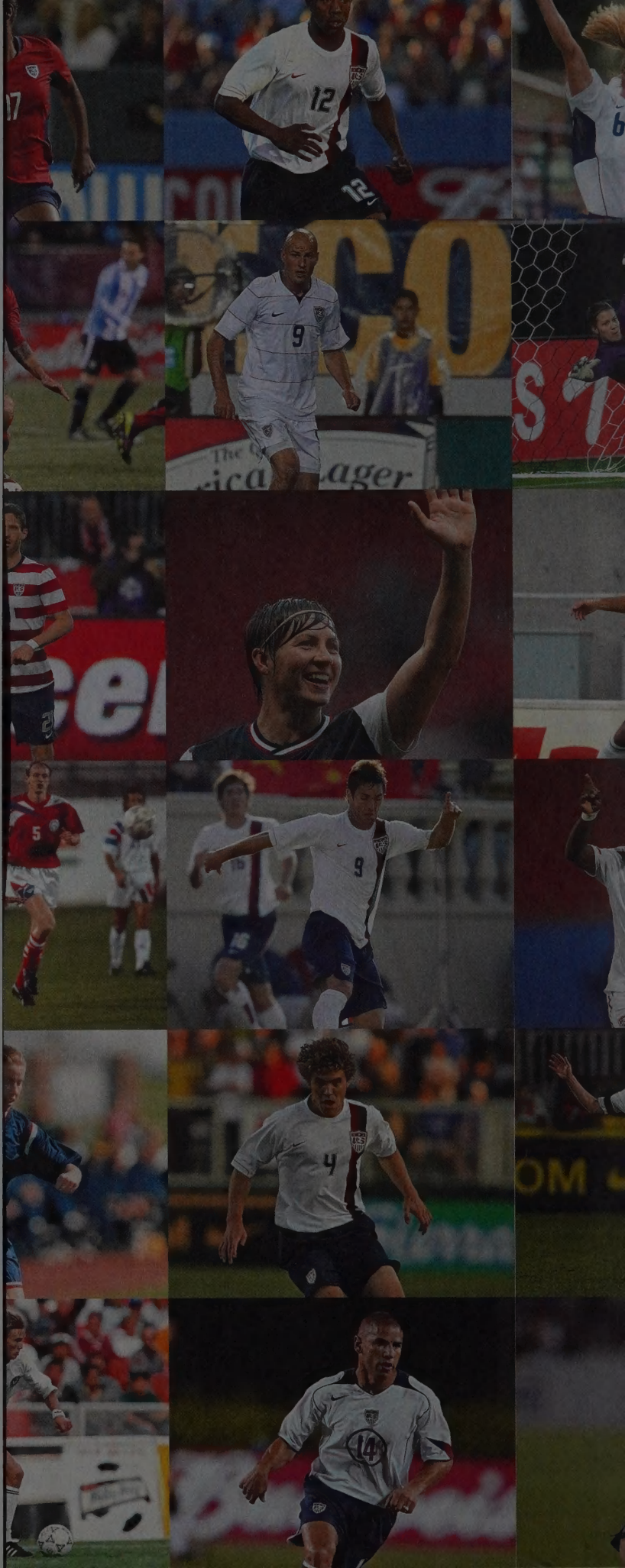
President Bill Clinton

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SOCCER IN THE UNITED STATES is at an all-time peak. The sport boasts one of the world's fastest growing domestic leagues, and National Teams that regularly assert their presence on the international stage.

The U.S. Soccer Federation takes us on a visual journey from the introduction of the beautiful game a century ago in the amateur leagues in the industrial northeast, to soccer's incredible growth across America today. The book is illustrated with everything from vintage images of the first National Teams in the mid- to late-1910s to rare game programs, ticket stubs, and exciting pictures of today's stars in action.

With contributions from players, coaches, and administrators spanning almost every generation of American soccer—including exclusive firsthand testimonies—the book profiles dozens of the talented players of the Men's and Women's National Teams over the past 100 years, looks at the coaches who have changed the game, celebrates the most memorable moments and unforgettable goals, and chronicles U.S. Soccer's greatest achievements at the international level from the World Cup to the Olympics.





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The Official Book of the U.S. Soccer Federation



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Introduction

BY SUNIL GULATI

WHEN WE STOP AND TAKE A LOOK at where we are today, the pace of change and growth is remarkable. Just 25 years ago, we didn't have a major professional outdoor league and World Cups were but a memory. All of that has changed.

Even in the last few years, the sport of soccer has experienced unprecedented popularity, and every available measurement has demonstrated that the U.S. Men's and Women's National Teams have the ability to transcend soccer and are entering mainstream American culture.

Sports fans around the country were glued to ABC's, ESPN's, and Univision's coverage of the 2010 World Cup, with those broadcasters experiencing record viewership. In the following two years, the Women's National Team stole the hearts of millions of Americans during their World Cup and Olympic campaigns, and those fans are still clamoring to see star players like Abby Wambach, Hope Solo, and Alex Morgan.

Our goal now is to continue to build on the momentum that has been created through the decades by the countless number of people who care about this game. We'll continue to create more facilities and concentrate on improving player, coaching, and referee development, while advancing the passion from the millions of fans across the country. We have reached across the cultural, social, and political spectrum to open new possibilities for the sport in the country. We are living in a moment when legacies are not only being created but are prospering. It is definitely an exciting time to be a soccer fan in the United States.

Sunil Gulati has served as the President of the U.S. Soccer Federation since 2006.



Preface

BY PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON

I DIDN'T GROW UP A SOCCER FAN—I only began to learn about the sport when I was in my twenties and studying in England. But over the past 40 years, I've experienced firsthand what makes it the world's most popular pastime, and I've enthusiastically joined its billions of devotees. I'm always captivated by the pure emotion that surrounds the game, both on the field and in the stands, and by its remarkable power to unify people from completely different backgrounds. And I'm excited that its popularity is continuing to build to an all-time high in the United States.

I've had the privilege to witness some of the most defining moments in the history of U.S. Soccer, and it's been amazing to watch the fans grow more passionate every step of the way. I'll never forget the magnificent afternoon at Soldier Field in 1994, when I had the honor of welcoming the world for what was to become the most-attended World Cup in history. The sportsmanship and suspense of soccer were on full display that day—and every day through the rest of the tournament.

Five years later, the Women's National Team earned the right to hoist the World Cup trophy here in the United States. When I think of all the great athletic performances I've seen, it's hard to top what those 20 extraordinary women accomplished in three thrilling weeks. Their dramatic shootout win in the Final at the Rose Bowl—still the highest-attended women's sporting event in world history—had all of America cheering as one. They showed millions of young women that they could follow their dreams, which for me, as the father of a daughter, gave their victory even more meaning.

The 2010 World Cup in South Africa was another unforgettable experience. I was on the edge of my seat for 91 minutes—as were the millions of fans watching back home—as the U.S. faced Algeria with a spot in the Round of 16 on the line. When Landon Donovan scored the winning goal, I cheered so hard I lost my voice. After the game, the players and coaches graciously invited me to join in the celebration inside the locker room. As I looked around the room at such a diverse group of Americans, I was struck by the simple joy they took in their camaraderie and their pride in having endured and triumphed as a true team. It was the magic of sports in its purest form.

U.S. Soccer and its fans and athletes have a lot to be proud of. I'm grateful for the exhilarating memories our athletes have given us, and I look forward to cheering our teams on for years to come—even if I go hoarse in the process.

President Bill Clinton has been on hand for some of U.S. Soccer's greatest moments: celebrating with the MNT after the historic 2010 World Cup win over Algeria (above), and greeting the 1999 World Cup-winning WNT at the White House (below).



HOME OF



THE BRAV







HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

Soccer in America

AMERICAN INTEREST IN SOCCER BEGAN with a brief flirtation with the game by college teams in the late 1860s and early 1870s, but that ended in 1876 when, following Harvard's lead, they gave up association football in favor of rugby football.

Despite that decision, soccer experienced surprising growth in America during the 1880s. Among the first areas where association football spread into the British working classes were the textile regions of Lancashire and Scotland's Clyde Valley. In the 1870s and '80s, a tremendous number of people immigrated from those areas to American textile centers such as Fall River, Mass., Kearny, N.J., and Pawtucket, R.I., cities that were synonymous (along with St. Louis, Miss.) with the growth of American soccer in the 1880s. The first league in American soccer (which was not called "soccer" in America until about 1905) was the Western Football Association of St. Louis in 1883. The Bristol County League in Fall River followed the next year.

A landmark event in those years was the formation of the American Football Association at a meeting in Newark, N.J., in 1884. Nominally, this was only the second national football association outside the British Isles, although in fact it was much more regional than national. It held its championship tournament, the AFA Cup, beginning in 1885, and the first three titles were won by ONT of Kearny, a team sponsored by the Clark Thread Mill.

The ONT team had been founded in 1883, and soccer in Fall River got its start in that same year, when the Fall River East Ends played their first games. By 1888, a different Fall River team, the County Street Rovers, had come to the fore and taken over the mantle from ONT in the AFA Cup, starting a run of five straight years in which that title was won by Fall River teams. Other Eastern teams that were faring well at that time included the Kearny Rangers, Newark Almas, Paterson True Blues, and Pawtucket Free Wanderers.

At the same time, soccer was beginning to thrive in St. Louis, but geographic distance and the limitations of 1880s transportation kept it isolated. There, organized soccer flourished, but with many of the clubs associated with churches and parishes rather than the ethnic social clubs prominent in the East. As a result, St. Louis rapidly became known for developing American-born players, a status it has retained to this day.

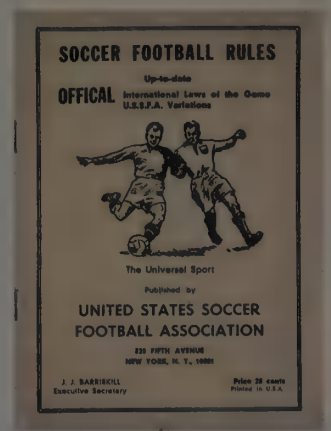
By 1890, teams from Fall River, St. Louis, Rhode Island, and New Jersey had played a combined total of more than 1,100 games, and the sport was well on its way in America.



**Clark's O. N. T. husky soccer football
ship games in 1883, 1884 and 1885.
and William Clark, both c**



1885, winner of the American Soccer cup in the American Soccer championship. Douglas, H. Henworthy, J. Splain, J. Joules, J. Howarth, J. McGuirk, Robert m; Joe Swithenby and John Swithenby are among those identified.



Founding of U.S. Soccer

TO QUOTE THE LATE BILL GRAHAM, one of American soccer's greatest archivists and historians, "The birth of the United States Soccer Football Association . . . was by no means a peaceful incident."

By the early 20th century, the sport had spread across the nation and was a thriving pastime for fans and players alike, but it was being overseen by local, provincial bodies located in industrial centers and areas where immigrants clustered.

In 1884, the American Football Association sprang up in Newark, New Jersey, as a somewhat ad hoc governing body, and it quickly gathered up the New York, New Jersey, New England, and Pennsylvania leagues and clubs. It was committed to professional and amateur phases of the game. A rival American Amateur Football Association (AAFA) championed the amateur side, and a hot competition between the two groups erupted as each sought recognition from the newly formed Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA).

Both groups ventured to the FIFA Congress in Stockholm in 1912, and after considerable wrangling and politics, a proposal by England that the rival applications be referred to the Emergency Committee in the hopes of finding a solution was passed by more than a 2-to-1 vote. Thomas W. Cahill, destined to be one of the great leaders of the early days of the U.S. Soccer Federation's predecessors, represented the AAFA and returned home with the sole duty of creating a single governing body.

From this indecisive meeting with FIFA, the U.S. soccer community saw the need to settle its disputes and set the course for the century. The two major organizations held a joint meeting at New York City's Astor House, a hotel near Wall Street, and reached an agreement to unite the dueling bodies; but this agreement didn't even hold for 60 days, as the AAFA withdrew.

Undaunted, soccer leaders tried again on March 8, 1913, again at the Astor House, and took a significant step forward. They agreed to convene a meeting of all known soccer groups across the 48 states and invited them to come to New York for an April 5 conclave.

It was at this Astor House session that today's U.S. Soccer Federation came to life under the name of the United States of America Foot Ball Association (USFA). With this historic breakthrough, soccer was set on its path to success at all levels: youth, amateur, and professional. Just weeks later, on June 21, 1913, a second meeting convened to choose the initial officers:

PRESIDENT:

Dr. G. Randolph Manning (New York)

VICE PRESIDENT:

Oliver Hemingway (Philadelphia)

2ND VICE PRESIDENT:

Thomas H. McKnight (Chicago)

3RD VICE PRESIDENT:

William D. Love (Pawtucket, R.I.)

TREASURER:

Archibald Birse (Chicago)

and SECRETARY:

Thomas W. Cahill (New York)

One year later, on June 28, 1914, the USFA was admitted to FIFA at its Oslo Congress.

*The establishment of
the first national governing
body brought order
and consistency to the
sport, providing guidance
from its New York City
headquarters.*

FIRST MEETING OF THE UNITED STATES FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION
Broadway Central Hotel, New York City
May 30th, 1914



Some of the Officers and Delegates who can still be recognized are:

Sitting from left:

Third: Archibald Birse, Treasurer; Fourth: Thomas Cahill, Secretary Fifth: Charlie Creighton, Delegate, N. Y. State Referees; Sixth: Dr. Manning, President; Seventh: Peter Peel; Second Row, standing; from left; Eleventh: George Cullins, Sr., Boston; Seventh: John Fernley, First V-P. Top Row; from left: First: Joseph Barriskill; Second: Jim Barclay.



Dr. Randolph Manning

HE SERVED JUST TWO YEARS AS USFA PRESIDENT, but Dr. Randolph Manning, a medical doctor by training, was called by some early 20th-century observers the “Moses” of American soccer. His determination, alongside that of Thomas W. Cahill, finally brought a truce to the struggle between competing governing bodies.

Manning was born in England on December 3, 1875, but was raised in Germany, where as a student he played for Freiburger F.C. (he was also club chairman). As a result of his work with the Association of Southern Germany Football Clubs, he was named a delegate to the convention that resulted in the formation of the Deutscher Fussball-Bund in 1900. He was immediately appointed to the new group’s statutes committee.

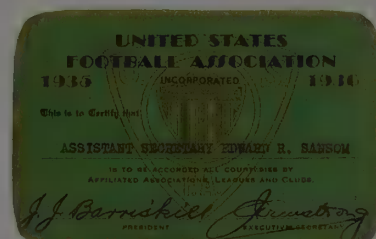
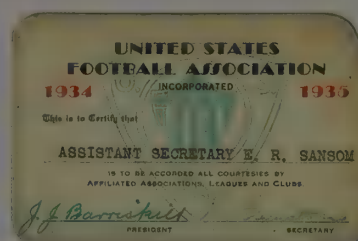
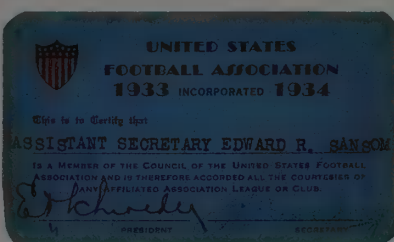
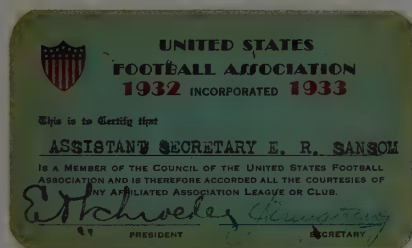
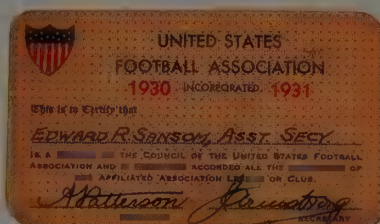
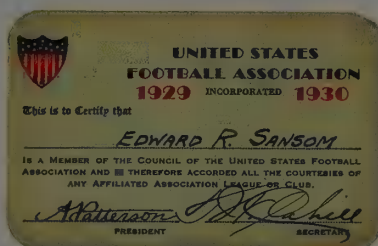
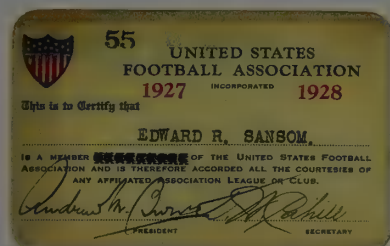
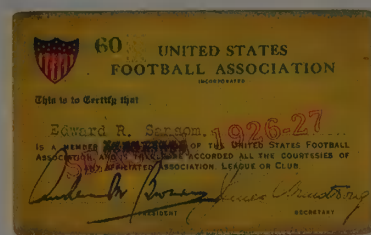
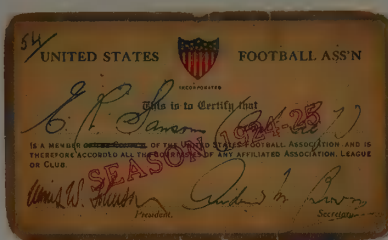
When he came to the United States in 1906, he joined the German F.C. of New York and—reluctantly because of his immense workload as a physician—he agreed to the American Amateur Football Association’s importuning to become its leader. Manning smoothly navigated the treacherous waters of jealousy among rival groups, calling upon his experiences as one of Germany’s soccer founders to unite the sport.

He attended the very first meeting of FIFA in 1904, and in 1948 became the first-ever American member of the international organization’s executive committee.

Manning knew his membership, and in a speech given in 1914, he summed up the struggles and, likely without knowing it, spoke of the issues that frame much of all sports even today.

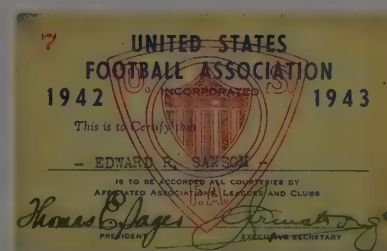
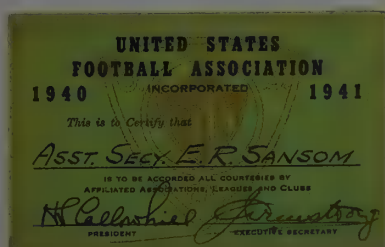
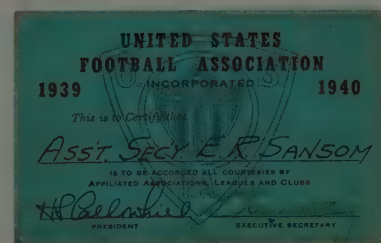
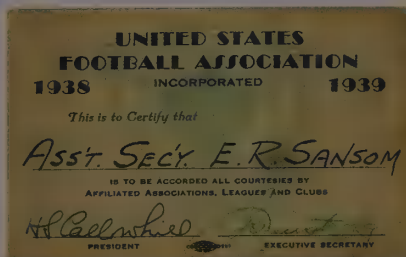
“The necessity of forming a supreme governing organization was felt more and more severely in the different football metropolises. During the last two years, a series of events brought the actual establishment to a head. The constant influx of younger football players from all European countries, where association football now reigns supremely as the national winter game, the lack of organized cooperation in this country, the rather loose and indiscriminate methods in advertising championships and cup competitions, as well as in interpreting the laws of the game and in regulating the amateur and professional conditions, finally the phenomenal growth of the national and international importance of the game, side by side with all the other sports in general as shown by the institution and popularity of the Olympic Games here as well as abroad—all these events made a co-operative effort in this country imperative.”

Manning could hardly have foreseen the complex governing apparatus of today’s U.S. Soccer, but he would be immensely proud to know the “co-operative effort” he championed has indeed resulted in tens of millions of soccer athletes, numerous professional leagues, massive media exposure, corporate support, and, most important, success.



The national governing body has undergone two name changes since its establishment: 1913, United States Foot Ball Association (USFA); 1945, United States Soccer Football Association (USSFA); and 1974, United

States Soccer Federation (USSF). These membership cards date from the period of the USFA, and reveal the origins of the logo that represents the organization today.





An International Fixture

AUGUST 20, 1916, AT STOCKHOLM

USA 3 (SPALDING 35, ELLIS 60, COOPER 85)

SWEDEN 2 (TORNQVIST 70, 81)

George Tintle, James Robertson, C. H. Spalding, Thomas Murray, Neil Clarke, Clarence Smith, James Ford, Thomas Swords, Matt "Rabbit" Heminsley, Charles Ellis, Harry Cooper

THOUGH THE 19TH-CENTURY American Football Association had fielded a team called a "national" team against Canada in 1885 and 1886, that squad was actually regional in nature, with 20 of the players coming from New Jersey and 11 from a single club.

But things had changed by the early 20th century. The fledgling United States Foot Ball Association first established a national cup competition in 1914, and by 1916 it was ready to form a truly national team. With war raging in Europe, the choice of opponents and overseas sites was a thorny and dangerous one, but the neutral nations of Scandinavia proved promising. So it was off to Sweden and Norway for America's debut on the international stage.

Named the All-American Soccer Football Club, the 14 chosen players were primarily from the Northeast. They sailed from New York on the *Fredrik VII* of the Scandinavian-American Line, and while at sea engaged in a regular training program consisting of "a judicious course of baseball, rope jumping, and six-a-side soccer."

The trip was scheduled for six games, including matches against Sweden and Norway.

On August 20, 1916, the Americans took the field in Stockholm to play the Swedish Federation selection for the first full international game for the team. It was the 37th international for the Swedes. Well organized on the rainy pitch, the Americans struggled to get an offense going, but in the 35th minute, Charles Harry "Dick" Spalding of Fleisher Yarn in Philadelphia took off down the right flank and scored the game's first goal. At the 60th minute, Charles Ellis (Brooklyn Celtics) made it 2-0 before Sweden pulled one back in the 70th minute. After Sweden drew level, Harry Cooper (N.Y. Continentals) provided the winner five minutes from time in the historic 3-2 victory.

Spalding, Ellis, and Cooper played only twice for the USA, lining up again two weeks later against All-Norway for a 1-1 tie at Oslo (Ellis scored the goal).



A Home Game

NOVEMBER 8, 1925, AT EBBETS FIELD, BROOKLYN, N.Y.

USA 6 (STARK 4, DAVEY 2)

CANADA 1 (BURNES)

Tommy Steel, James Robertson, Billy Wilson, James Kelly, William Carnihan, William Herd, Davey Brown, Johnny McGuire, Archie Stark, Robert Millar, Malcolm Goldie

After nearly a decade of wandering around Europe playing matches in Sweden, Norway, France, Ireland, and Poland, and then traveling to Montreal for a game, U.S. Soccer came home.

Manager Nat Agar could claim among his athletes two of the craftiest scorers ever to play the American game, Archie Stark and Davey Brown. Stark was born in Scotland but matured in the United States to become a legendary goal scorer in the original American Soccer League (ASL), which operated from 1921 to 1931. Brown, the first native-born star and an electrician by trade, was a product of Newark's playing fields, where he developed his speed and technical control. Tom Florie was the only other American-born man on the team, born in Harrison, N.J., and destined to become captain of the 1930 U.S. World Cup team. The remainder of the team was primarily of British- and Scottish-born players.

There were hopes of an annual series between the USA and Canada, but in the end that never materialized. The previous June, the Americans had lost the first match, 1-0, up in Montreal, and now it was the USA's turn.

Pouring rain pelted Ebbets Field in Brooklyn when the teams marched out to start the match, but it didn't deter the crowd of 12,000. Under the horrible conditions, the USA's aerial style of play slowly took hold against the Canadians' short-passing techniques. The half ended 1-1, but the exuberant American side tore the game open in the second half to complete a 6-1 rout. Stark scored four goals and Brown two.

The *New York Times* noted the occasion: "The United States soccer eleven slid, skidded, swam, and ran to a 6-to-1 victory on Ebbets Field, Brooklyn, yesterday against the representatives of Canada. On a rain-soaked field that became more slippery and slimy every minute, the wearers of the American shield captured the championship of North America. . . . The rain continued to fall throughout and stopped only after the final whistle had blown and the turf had been churned to a quagmire."

And Stark summed up what international soccer was like at the sunrise of American competition. The team had no preparation prior to the first leg in Montreal, and, as Stark relates it, "We just got picked and we went up there. There were no coaches in our day. There were just managers, and they never came in and told you how to play or anything. They just put the name up on the bulletin board and you played."

A simpler time, perhaps, but a great first domestic result.



International Tours

BETHLEHEM STEEL MAY HAVE BEEN the first American club to make an overseas tour, but visits by international squads to U.S. shores have been a staple of the American soccer experience right from the earliest days. As far back as 1905, the Pilgrims, an English amateur all-star team, came for a 12-game tour and then repeated the trip four years later for a 23-game extravaganza.

The Pilgrims' appearances were the direct result of the growing outcry against violence in gridiron football of the era. President Theodore Roosevelt convened a group to discuss ways to modify the gridiron game. The result of the talks was a 1905 invitation to the Pilgrims, and the tour was staged to help interest colleges in taking up the sport, which had drifted away from campuses in the 19th century. The Englishmen won 16, lost 2, and tied 4, and at tour's end captain Fred Milne and forward Vivian Woodward, one of the great English players of the era, visited the president at the White House to discuss the sport of soccer.

In the words of Thomas W. Cahill, writing in *Spalding's Official Soccer Football Guide* of 1911, the Pilgrims "came to this country on a mission to spread the gospel of soccer and to show Americans what a spectacular, clean, and athletic-building game soccer foot ball really is when properly played as the rules intended it should be."

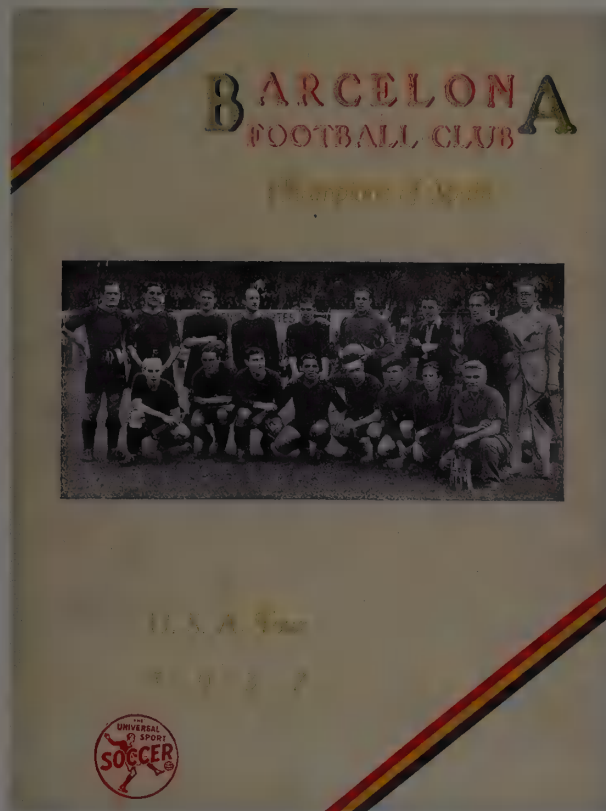
The touring phenomenon gathered steam in the 1920s, when Hakoah All-Stars of Vienna came for a total of 25 games in 1926–27. Hakoah was an all-Jewish team, and when they debuted in America, they became an instant sensation. On May 1, 1926, they drew a remarkable 46,000 to the Polo Grounds. They didn't come away winners that afternoon against an all-star team of New York-based American Soccer Leaguers, but it turned out to be the only loss they suffered on a seven-game tour. Over the course of the month, they drew 22,000 to Ebbets Field, another 30,000 to the Polo Grounds, and 25,000 in Philadelphia.

The Hakoah experience also turned out to have several unforeseen positives for American soccer. At the end of the 1926 series, several Hakoah players decided to stay in the United States, among them Erno Schwarz, who later became owner of the ASL's New York Americans. Nine Hakoah players stayed behind and among them formed a New York-based team, naturally named Hakoah, which won the U.S. Open Cup in 1929.

Perhaps seeing the success Hakoah had, many other teams followed to test out the New World's soccer situation. South America got into the act when Nacional of Uruguay—billed as the Uruguay National Team, but it wasn't—came for 13 games in 1927. Regardless of its name, the team did have 11 of the 18 who had played in either the 1924 or 1928 Olympics, the de facto World Cups of the era, and 5 of the men who won the inaugural World Cup in 1930. The Uruguayans played many of the premier ASL teams of the era in addition to some all-star selects, winning 9, losing 3, and drawing 1. They drew enthusiastic crowds and gave Americans their first glimpse of big-time South American soccer.

Dukla Prague, Sparta Prague, Corinthians, Preston North End, Charlton Athletic, Liverpool, Ferencváros, Real Madrid, Glasgow Rangers, Barcelona, Palestine Maccabee—they all came. The "summers of soccer" that have filled up the hot months of the 21st century are rooted deeply in American soccer history.

In case anyone thought that the only touring squads were men, think again. In 1922, the Dick, Kerr Ladies, a team of women from Preston in northern England, made a swing through the East. The team was established by Dick, Kerr & Co., Ltd., originally a manufacturer of light railway cars but a munitions maker during World War I. From their debut on Christmas Day in 1917, when it is reported that 10,000 fans turned out to see the lady factory workers play, they were an instant success. Even though the Football Association banned women's football in 1921, the



FEDERATION SOCCER STAR

Palestine Maccabee Tour
in America

1936

Sponsored by FEDERATION OF POLISH JEWS IN AMERICA



Top row: left to right - Pollak, trainer, - Dorenfeld, Platehek, Birshtein, Manner, Machlis, Herman, Epstein, Wosferman.
Lower row: Panz, Lieberman, Resnik, Elaner, Welberg, Merinovitch.

10c

Dick, Kerr Ladies continued to play and took their prowess to the United States.

That move wasn't easy for the women on the team, either. They attempted to play in Canada but were told they were not allowed. They traveled to the States and were able to play, but there was one catch: they were told they had to play against men's teams. So they did.

Staying in the United States for more than two months, the English women played nine games against some of the best in the ASL, dividing up the matches evenly with three wins, three losses, and three ties. Among the high points were a 4-4 draw against J&P Coats, destined to be that season's ASL champions; an 8-4 thrashing of Brooklyn F.C.; and a 2-all draw with Fall River Marksmen.

The thriving climate for women's football nowadays owes a debt of thanks to these pioneer women. The "future of football is feminine" is something they believed in long before FIFA president Sepp Blatter espoused the doctrine, and it's good they did, for the U.S. Soccer experience is the better for it.

*Beginning in the early 20th century, international club teams visited the United States frequently, entertaining enormous crowds at every stop—a trend that continues today. A trip to America frequently entailed visits to celebrities such as Jackie Robinson (**above left**), who showed what it is to slide into home plate.*

Bethlehem Steel Company S

National Champions - 19



C. Wilson P. Morrison T. Murny S. Fletcher W. Dineen J. Ferguson
 W. Ferguson G. Murphy J. Campbell H. Pollock W. R.

er Tenn
1915

Following Bethlehem's initiative, numerous other teams took the American club experience to other shores, among them St. Louis (Sweden in 1920), Fall River S.C. (Czechoslovakia, Austria, Yugoslavia, Hungary in 1930), Hakoah All-Stars (Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay in 1930), New York Americans (Cuba, Mexico in 1934). But until the Cosmos of the 1970s, no American club team has left such a powerful effect on foreign audiences and served as such an ambassador of United States soccer.

AIK	2-2	STOCKHOLM
STOCKHOLM TIGERS	1-0	STOCKHOLM
SWEDEN PROVINCIAL SELECT	2-1	STOCKHOLM
DJURGARDEN	1-1	STOCKHOLM
NORRKPING	1-1	NORRKPING
ALL-SKÅNE SELECT	4-0	HELSINGBORG
BOLDKLUBBEN	1-1	COPENHAGEN
MALMO XI	2-3	MALMO
GOTHENBURG KAMRATERNA	1-3	GOTHENBURG
ÖRGRYTE	1-0	GOTHENBURG
NORRKPING	2-0	GOTHENBURG
STOCKHOLM XI	1-0	STOCKHOLM
SWEDEN XI	3-2	STOCKHOLM
HAMMARBY	0-0	STOCKHOLM









INSIDE THE LINES



Frank Borghi

GOALKEEPER
9 CAPS (1949–54)

Frank Borghi started his career as a baseball player but turned to soccer and became one of the quintet of St. Louis players who were instrumental in the United States' performance at the 1950 FIFA World Cup.

The son of Italian immigrants, he worked in a funeral home. When World War II darkened the scene, he became a medic, serving in Sicily and North Africa as well as at the fierce Battle of Remagen during the final push to Berlin.

At age 19, he was caring for the wounded, among them baseball announcer Jack Buck, who was a fellow member of Company K of the 9th Division's 47th Infantry.

A hero to his fellow soldiers, Borghi went on to public fame as the goalkeeper who kept the clean sheet against England in 1950. He was a two-time U.S. Open Cup winner with St. Louis Simpkins-Ford before moving to the legendary St. Louis Kutis, where he took home another Dewar Cup.

"He smiled all the time and was a quiet guy who rarely said anything except to call for the ball, but he was a good athlete and great at anticipating when to come and when to stay," said 1950 teammate Walter Bahr. "He was good in the air and could easily throw to the halfway line."



Tim Howard

GOALKEEPER

84 CAPS (2002–PRESENT)

Athletic and intelligent, Howard has earned his position among the all-time greats of American goalkeeping with lightning-fast reactions and a knack for clutch saves.

At the outset, he studied under the tutelage of Brad Friedel and Kasey Keller, becoming the U.S. team's starter in 2007. His steady presence brought him toward the top of the U.S. all-time lists for goalkeeper wins and appearances. After helping the team win the 2007 CONCACAF

Gold Cup, he earned a shutout against then No. 1-ranked Spain in the 2009 FIFA Confederations Cup and earned the Golden Glove as the tournament's best goalkeeper. He had a stellar effort at the 2010 FIFA World Cup and posted shutouts in the U.S. team's first-ever victories against Italy and Mexico on their home soil.

He made a huge splash on the club level when he made the move from the New York/New Jersey MetroStars in Major League Soccer to Manchester

United in the English Premier League in 2003, quickly becoming the starter and earning Goalkeeper of the Year honors. In 2006, Howard went on loan to Everton, where he has been a regular since 2007.

"His attitude and his dedication to the game are tremendous," said Everton manager David Moyes. "Off the field, he's a great guy with great values. We all really like him as a person and he's a big part of the club here. He's one of our leaders in the dressing room."







Kasey Keller

LOCKER

BY JEFFREY M. HARRIS

A veteran of the 1990, 1994, 1997, and 2002 FIFA World Cup tournaments and the 1994, 1996, 1998, 2000, 2002, 2004, and 2006 CONCACAF Gold Cup, Keller has won a total of 10 international titles. He is also a member of the U.S. national team, having played 101 games and scored 11 goals. Keller is currently a free agent, having last played for the U.S. national team in 2006.

Keller was born in Washington, D.C., and grew up in the suburbs. He played soccer from a young age and was a member of the U.S. national team from 1990 to 2006. He is currently a free agent, having last played for the U.S. national team in 2006.

In the 1990s, Keller was a member of the U.S. national team and played in the 1990 and 1994 World Cup tournaments. He is currently a free agent, having last played for the U.S. national team in 2006.

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Arnie Mausser

GOALKEEPER

35 CAPS (1975–85)

Maybe a bit ahead of his time, Arnie Mausser was one of the outstanding goalkeepers in the country's soccer history. He had a foot in two eras—the mid-1970s pre-boom time and the stirrings of the current era in the mid-1980s.

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., Mausser started out with the famed Blau-Weiss Gottschee club that played its games at Metropolitan Oval in Queens, spending as much of his time as he could practicing alongside the Cosmos. "Shep Messing was the goalie then, and I watched really closely and imitated the players I saw," said Mausser.

By the time he was 17, Mausser was taken under the wing of coach Manny Schellscheidt at the Rhode Island Oceaners of the

American Soccer League. The team won the ASL championship that season, and both coach and goalkeeper moved on to the North American Soccer League the following season with the Hartford Bicentennials. Mausser ended up playing for 14 different indoor and outdoor club teams.

Mausser earned 35 caps for the U.S. team during his 18-year professional career, which puts him fifth on the United States' all-time list of goalkeeper caps through the first 100 years.





Tony Meola

GOALKEEPER
100 CAPS (1988–2006)

Whether wrapped in the flag after the USA's 1994 FIFA World Cup win against Colombia, hoisting the Major League Soccer Cup with Kansas City, or accepting the Hermann Trophy as the top college athlete in his freshman year at Virginia in 1988, Tony Meola was a constant on soccer's front pages for decades.

Another of the Kearny, N.J., products of the 1980s, Meola earned 100 caps and 32 shutouts during his 18-year Men's National Team career. He played every minute of the 1990 World Cup and remained in the role straight through the historic 1994 tournament, where he was named team captain, becoming one of soccer's most marketable and recognizable athletes of the day. In all, he participated in three World Cups.

"Tony came into New York for the Marlboro Cup in 1989," recalled former Men's National Team head coach Bob Gansler on his first call-up. "Jeff Duback was the starting 'keeper against Benfica that day, but he got hurt while giving up a penalty in the box. So Tony's first step onto the turf that day was to face a penalty kick. He didn't save it, but pretty soon he was the number-one goalkeeper for us. When Tony became a regular, we were halfway through qualifying, and the next four games were shutouts."

Meola played the first 10 seasons of Major League Soccer, having his best year in 2000 when he led Kansas City to the MLS Cup. That year he set a new league record for shutouts with 16 and earned the Most Valuable Player and Goalkeeper of the Year awards.

"Tony always had a lot of confidence," said Gansler. "There was something special in him, and he had a lot of pure athletic wherewithal. There's a saying that if you can be on center stage when the Broadway lights turned on... well, Tony had no problem with center stage."

Outside of the soccer realm, Major League Baseball's New York Yankees drafted Meola out of high school and he lettered in baseball at Virginia. He also briefly played in the National Football league, spending 11 weeks on the New York Jets roster as a placekicker.



Walter Bahr

DEFENDER
19 CAPS (1948–57)

A longtime U.S. Men's National Team captain, Walter Bahr (above, right) is one of the nation's greatest soccer stars. A stalwart for the National Team at the 1948 Olympics and the 1950 FIFA World Cup, Bahr earned a total of 19 caps and scored one goal, but he may be best known for earning the assist on Joe Gaetjens's goal in the 1950 World Cup upset of England.

The Philadelphia native began playing at age 10 and signed a contract to play in the American Soccer League at the age of 15, going on to star in the league for the Philadelphia Nationals, Uhrik Truckers, and Brookhattan. In addition, he shared his talents with the German-American League Eintracht, Philadelphia United

German-Hungarians, Montreal Hakoah, and Montreal Sparta during his quarter-century club career.

"I had a great time playing for 30 years, but I really remember the first year and the last year," said Bahr. "When I was 10, I joined the Lighthouse Boys' Club of Philadelphia. We lost the championship to the Philadelphia Indians after three straight games and 36 periods of overtime. The first game was 1–1, and we played 16 5-minute overtimes before the ref called the game for darkness. The second game was also 1–1 with 16 overtimes before it was called for darkness. Finally, in the third game, it was the fourth overtime and the ref called a penalty and we lost 1–0. The kid who scored the penalty kick,

Jim Smith, was the best man at my wedding, and the ref who whistled the penalty was his uncle.

"In my final year, I was playing in an old-timer's game in Philly, and I got thrown out of the match for arguing with the referee. After the game, over a few beers, the referee explained, 'Your belly was offside, but you weren't.' I'll never forget my first year and my last year."

While still playing, Bahr coached at Swarthmore and then also took turns with two American Soccer League teams. After retiring as a player, he coached Temple and Penn State University, earning NCAA tournament appearances in 12 out of 14 seasons for the Nittany Lions.

Marcelo Balboa

DEFENDER

127 CAPS (1988–2000)

One of the familiar faces that defined the ascendancy of American soccer in the 1990s, Balboa's achievements include playing in three straight FIFA World Cups, joining Major League Soccer as an inaugural player, earning a place in the Hall of Fame, and becoming a network broadcaster and youth coach.

Fans will always remember the beautifully choreographed bicycle kick that nearly resulted in a goal against Colombia in the 1994 World Cup and the one he did score for Colorado that resulted in 2000 MLS Goal of the Year honors, but it is his anchoring role in the USA's defense that defines his career.

Of Argentine descent, Balboa rapidly climbed the ladder

through the youth system, representing the United States at the 1987 FIFA World Youth Championships, and from there he jumped directly to the Men's National Team. With his trademark long hair flying in the wind, he was such a steady selection that he became the first American to reach 100 caps and was twice voted U.S. Soccer Athlete of the Year, in 1992 and 1994. In his MLS career, he played for the Colorado Rapids and the NY/NJ MetroStars, and was named a member of the MLS All-Time Best XI after the league's first decade of competition.

"Being a part of three World Cups was special," said Balboa. "But it wasn't as special as what we accomplished as a team at

the end of the day. Everyone did their job on the field, and it was a fantastic group of teams, with kids who matured from 1990 to 1998. From 1990, when no one gave us a chance in Italy, to going to Azteca and getting a result against Mexico in 1997—those are the events that stand out when you're an American kid playing soccer."







Carlos Bocanegra

DEFENDER
110 CAPS (2001–12)

Bocanegra showed international promise at an early age, appearing in every match of the 1999 U-20 World Youth Championship and, three years later, being part of the 2002 CONCACAF Gold Cup-winning squad. His Men's National Team career kicked off in earnest in the qualifying cycle for the 2006 FIFA World Cup, and in Germany he started two matches at left back.

In 2007, Bradley shifted Bocanegra to center back and named him captain of the squad—a decision that, while certainly warranted, wasn't necessarily assumed would happen. The inspired choice would go on to wear the captain's armband more times than any other player in U.S. history.

"When he was named captain, he may not have been the most obvious of picks," said U.S. defender Steve Cherundolo. "Credit to Bob—he knew more about team dynamics than others gave him credit for. It was an extremely important decision, and it paid off.

A team is always changing, and you need the right personality to lead the group through it. Carlos was clearly that guy. He is calm and consistent, which is always important for a captain. He's able to connect with everybody on the team, no matter the background or personality. In that sense, he's a renaissance man. He can do it all."

As the leader for the 2010 FIFA World Cup campaign, "Los" marshaled the U.S. team to the 2007 Gold Cup title, the historic 2–0 victory against No. 1-ranked Spain in the 2009 FIFA Confederations Cup semifinal, and the dramatic matches in South Africa the following year. One of only four defenders in U.S. history to earn 100 caps, Bocanegra also proved to be deceptively effective as a scoring threat on restarts. His 14 career goals are the most ever among U.S. defenders. Respect for Bocanegra extended to his club career abroad, as he is one of a handful of U.S. players to serve as captain for both club and country at the same time.





Paul Caligiuri

DEFENDER
110 CAPS 1989-1997

Scoring the historic goal that put the United States in the World Cup for the first time in 40 years and launching the renaissance of the sport in the country is certainly a crowning achievement for Paul Caligiuri. But he is counted among the greats of U.S. Soccer for much more than that historic strike in Trinidad and Tobago in 1989.

Caligiuri came of age during the mid-1980s at a time when the U.S. team was struggling to rejoin the ranks of the world's elite. As a teen, he was scouted by German teams and played for Hertha 03 Zehlendorf at just 15 years old. He ultimately pursued college at UCLA, where he was twice an all-American and captained the Bruins to the 1985 NCAA championship.

He pursued a career in Germany, starting in Hamburg, then with spells at SV Meppen and Hansa Rostock in East Germany, where he won the East German professional championship. From 1991 to 1992 he played for Second Bundesliga club SC Freiburg.

He got his first taste of the international stage at the 1983 FIFA World Youth Championship.

A year later he was a member of the Men's National Team, starting a 13-year career that carried him through U.S. Soccer's enormous growth spurt of the 1990s.

"The shot heard round the world" catapulted the U.S. team into the 1990 FIFA World Cup in Italy, where he started every game, and then again in 1994 in the USA. He then brought his talent to Major League Soccer, playing for Columbus and the L.A. Galaxy during a six-year spell.

"His contribution was monumental," said Men's National Team teammate Desmond Armstrong. "Cal proved himself in all the important games—from the Olympics to the game in '89 to scoring in the World Cup. Also, for an American at that time to go out of the country and play professionally was a high improbability. He really gave the rest of us some inspiration. We thought if Cal could do it, then we could too. He was the first of many more to follow."

Steve Cherundolo

Cherundolo's impact on the U.S. national team is undeniable.

A polished and technically gifted player who possesses exceptional defensive positioning and a laser instinct on when to join the attack, Cherundolo quietly earned the praise of being one of the most consistent and important

if not the most important players on the U.S. national team in its history. Carlos Bocanegra, and one of the great things about him is that he doesn't rely on his teammates to do the heavy lifting for him. He's a consistent performer, and now he's the one who's in the spotlight. He's all that's come out of the U.S. national team, and he's the one who's the most interesting footballing career of any player in our history.

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Thomas Dooley

DEFENDER
81 CAPS (1992–99)

Thomas Dooley learned soccer in Germany, where he had been born to an American father and German mother. He was discovered by U.S. Soccer during the run-up to the 1994 FIFA World Cup and rapidly became a regular on the backline after his debut in 1992.

He played every minute of the 1994 World Cup and then was the captain for the United States at the 1998 FIFA World Cup in France. Overall, he played 81 times for the U.S. team, scoring seven goals.

"It's impossible to put into words what I felt about my first U.S. National Team appearance," said Dooley. "It is one thing to dream of visiting the USA and seeing firsthand how proud Americans were of their country.

For me, I felt all those dreams, and how lucky I was to get the chance to play for the USA."

He started his soccer career in the German third division with F.C. 08 Homburg and stayed with them as the team ascended to the Bundesliga, the top league association in Germany. Later, he moved to Kaiserslautern, where he won a Bundesliga title in 1991. He returned to Germany following the 1994 World Cup, but then turned his attention back to the United States, joining the Columbus Crew and twice earning Best XI honors. He finished his club career with the New York/New Jersey MetroStars.



Harry Keough

DEFENDER

19 CAPS (1949–57)

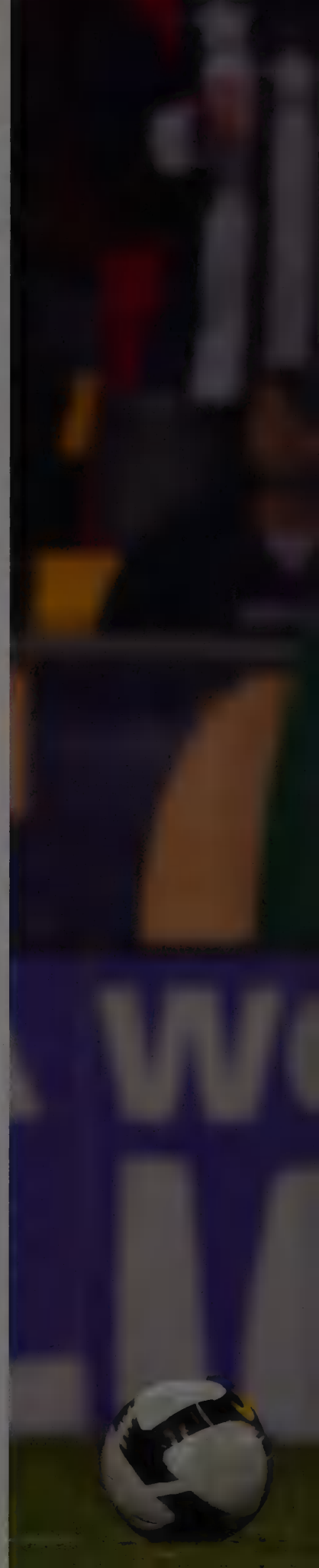
A legend in his hometown of St. Louis, Harry Keough made his mark on the U.S. Men's National Team with 19 consecutive appearances, which included the 1952 and 1956 Olympics and the historic 1950 World Cup.

Keough played 19 seasons for St. Louis Kutis, winning a trophy case of honors: two U.S. Open Cups and seven National Amateur Cup titles.

Following his retirement as a player in 1957, he stayed at the heart of the game, coaching Florissant Valley Community College before heading to the St. Louis Billikens, where he put together a storied record. His teams won five NCAA titles, one shared, and finished runner-up three times, winning more than 200 matches.

Lincoln Phillips coached at Howard University and met Keough-led teams three times in the NCAA championship.

"Harry was always quiet and unassuming and never gloated over the success of his teams," said Phillips. "He was extremely passionate about the game and how it should be played, and the manner in which his players conducted themselves on and off the field. Aggressive football was expected from his players, but always honest aggression well within the laws of the game. He never subscribed to ugly football, always clean and attractive Barcelona-type football."





Alexi Lalas

DEFENDER

96 CAPS (1991–98)

An anchor for the U.S. defense for most of the 1990s, Lalas may have been as well known for his music and long, red hair as his accolades on the field. Possibly the most-recognized National Team player of his era, he was a marketer's dream.

"It felt natural, to be honest," said Lalas. "I grew up idolizing performers and performances, and I always considered myself to be one. It didn't matter if it was sports. It was a stage, regardless—the stage for a concert or the field for a game was the same. You rehearse or train and you go out there and perform or play the game.

Ultimately, it was about my performance on the field, but it wasn't a burden to be a public 'image.' It's what I love about sports—the visuals, the personalities, the aura."

He played his college soccer at Rutgers, winning the Hermann Trophy as the outstanding collegian of 1991. He was a member of the 1992 Olympic team, which competed in Barcelona, and by 1993, he was a fixture in Bora Milutinovic's team, which was then preparing for the 1994 FIFA World Cup. One of the most memorable Lalas moments came during U.S. Cup '93, when he scored a goal against

England at Foxboro. A year later, he was an integral part of the USA's performance at the World Cup, playing every minute in all four matches.

Following the 1994 FIFA World Cup, he became the first American to play in Italy's Serie A when he joined Padova. He was one of the Major League Soccer inaugural season players and enjoyed a seven-year career in the league before turning his attention to front-office affairs. He has been a general manager in MLS and a television commentator.



Eddie Pope

DEFENDER
82 CAPS (1996–2006)

A three-time FIFA World Cup veteran, Eddie Pope was also twice a Major League Soccer All-Star, played in the 1995 Pan American Games and the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, won three MLS Cups and one U.S. Open Cup, and was named the MLS Defender of the Year in 1997.

While a tenacious defender, he also had a knack for scoring big goals in big games throughout his career. He scored the first-ever MLS Cup-winning goal, to give D.C. United the inaugural championship in 1996, and clinched the InterAmerican Cup title for United in 1998 with

a goal against Rio de Janeiro's Vasco da Gama. For the Men's National Team, he was generally assigned to thwart the opposition's top scorers, but he was also timely on offense. He scored twice in 1998 World Cup qualifying matches, including a critical strike against Mexico.

"I really don't remember a time when Eddie had a bad game," said Men's National Team teammate Frankie Hejduk. "You knew you were going to get an incredible effort, game in and game out. He wasn't the most vocal guy, but he led by example. There was no trash talking. He just went

about his business as a straight-nosed, hard defender. He's a gentle giant. He's soft-spoken and intelligent, just like how he played."



Mike Windischmann

DEFENDER
50 CAPS (1984–90)

Mike Windischmann came of age in the mid-1980s when there wasn't a first-division league and qualifying for the World Cup remained elusive for the United States. The product of the existing soccer structure in greater New York, Windischmann persevered after his dreams and represented the United States a remarkable 50 times.

He first played for the U-16 team before competing in the World University Games, the Pan American Games, and the 1988 Olympics, where he scored a goal to earn a 1–1 draw with Argentina.

All that experience—from sandlots to Olympic Games—

provided him with the tenacity to assume his most prominent role, U.S. captain of the 1990 World Cup team, the first such team for the nation in 40 years.

“‘Windy’ appealed to me as the consummate technician,” said former U.S. head coach Bob Gansler. “He was tactically very aware, too. He wasn’t the biggest or the fastest guy, but his brain got him through. He was always on an even keel. He never got down and was mature beyond his age. We needed someone as captain who could serve as an ‘older brother’ to the younger players even though he was the same age.”



Michael Bradley

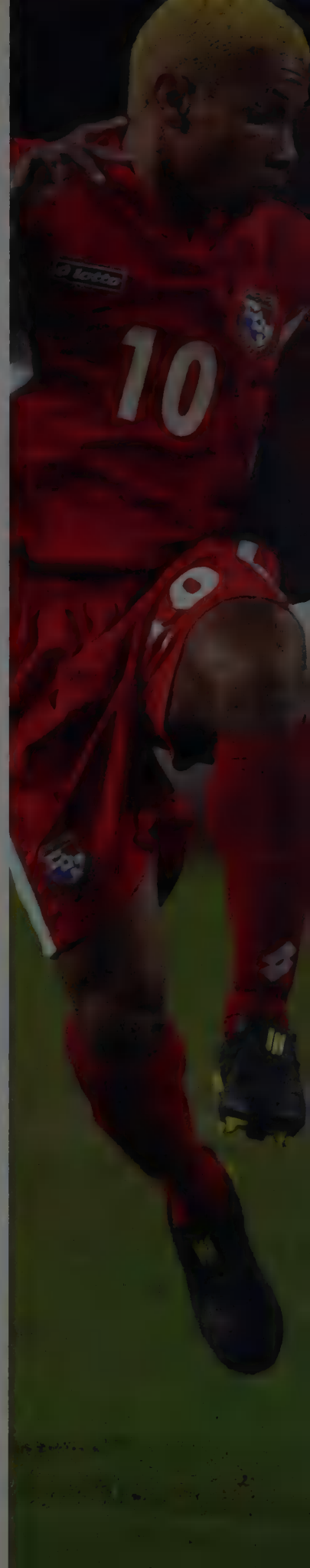
MIDFIELDER
72 CAPS (2006–PRESENT)

Already at a young age, Michael Bradley showed a drive and ability that was partly a result of his environment. His father, Bob Bradley, one of the top U.S. soccer coaches of all time, allowed Michael to be around the teams that he coached as much as Michael desired.

“When Bob was coaching the Chicago Fire, Michael was around all the time and always seemed to be beyond his years,” said former Men’s National Team midfielder Chris Armas. “At 11 years old you could ask him ‘What did you think of the game?’ and he’d actually have good things to say. In training, he was always watching and would stay after to shoot or take penalty kicks. Later, he hopped into games and always knew where the ball was going to go. He was confident, technical, and could keep up with the speed.”

By the age of 25, Bradley, a U.S. Under-17 Residency Program product, had represented the United States in the FIFA U-20 World Cup, the Gold Cup, the Olympics, the FIFA Confederations Cup, and the FIFA World Cup—all in the span of three years. Bradley developed into one of the most consistent performers on the squad and has contributed some huge goals, including the game-tying goal against Slovenia that kept the United States’ hopes alive in the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

After club stops in the Netherlands and Germany, he made the move to Italy to become the first U.S. player in nearly 20 years to compete in Italy’s Serie A.



DaMarcus Beasley

DA MARCUS BEASLEY
OF THE U.S. MEN'S NATIONAL TEAM

Quick with the ball, athletic and fearless in the face of opposition, DaMarcus Beasley was one of the most dynamic players for the U.S. Men's National Team during his career.

After playing for the U.S. under-17 and under-20 teams in his hometown, he, Beasley, was among the best players in the world. After being drafted by the U.S. Men's National Team for the 1997 FIFA World Cup, where he won the Silver Ball as the tournament's second best

player, Beasley debuted for the senior national team in the January of 2001. At the age of 19, Beasley was the youngest player in the 2002 FIFA World Cup squad that made it to the quarterfinals. Beasley, who is a left-footed player, included two more U.S. World Cup players in his list: U.S. captain Michael Bradley and white star Clint Dempsey, the current captain of the U.S. national team. He was also the first U.S. player to play in the semifinals of the 2002 FIFA World Cup.

He was the first player to ever score a goal in the 2002 FIFA World Cup, if you count his goal in the 2002 FIFA World Cup. He was the first player to ever score a goal in the 2002 FIFA World Cup, if you count his goal in the 2002 FIFA World Cup.







John Harkes

MIDFIELDER
90 CAPS (1987–2000)

Playing in two FIFA World Cups, captaining the National Team, and being one of the country's first to play in the top level of English soccer, John Harkes has long been a celebrated member of the "Kearny Connection" (Tony Meola, Archie Stark, and Tab Ramos are others) and a linchpin of National Team success in the 1990s.

"By the time I was 18 or so my dad made sure that I knew the history of the players that had come through Kearny—how many had played for the National Team," said Harkes. "It was a blue-collar town, industrial and hard, but it provided freedom for the immigrants. I'm first-generation American—both my parents were born in Scotland—but you never forget where you came from, and I haven't. Every day, by the time I was 16 or so, we'd get a five-a-side game together, and it was a competitive atmosphere. I was playing against older boys, and that made me better."

Harkes attended the University of Virginia, where Bruce Arena was the coach, and won the Hermann Trophy as the outstanding college soccer

player in 1987. Following that honor, he devoted his time to the National Team, playing in the Pan American Games and the 1988 Olympics. He started in three games in the 1990 World Cup in Italy, and again four years later in the United States. In 1995, Harkes was named the co-Most Valuable Player in the 1995 Copa America after leading the U.S. squad to the semifinals.

While overseas in England, he appeared in two finals at Wembley Stadium, first in the 1993 League Cup Final—where he became the first American to score in that event when he tallied a compelling strike from distance for Sheffield Wednesday against Arsenal—and then again in the F.A. Cup Final that same year.

One of the original players in Major League Soccer, he spent seven years in the league with D.C. United, New England, and Columbus. He won back-to-back MLS Cup titles with D.C. United, captaining the team to the domestic "double" in 1996.

Cobi Jones

MIDFIELDER
164 CAPS (1992–2004)

Cobi Jones is remembered for a number of things during his career: speed, quickness, and his familiar dreadlocks, but most of all his longevity. His endurance was in many ways ahead of its time, and he would go on to become one of the most consistent forces to wear a U.S. jersey—doing so 164 times, more than any player in the U.S. Soccer Federation's first 100 years.

"The different positions that I could play allowed me to be able to plug a lot of holes," Jones said. "I was fortunate that I didn't pick up any big injuries. You look at the era that I played in, there were a lot of games and a lot of traveling to get through, so you had to take care of your

body and do all of the right things—with a little bit of luck."

Aside from the sheer length of his playing days, Jones also was a stout playmaker and setup man, posting 22 assists through his 13-year international career. That mark was a U.S. record until it was surpassed two years after his tenure, in 2006, by Landon Donovan.

When you consider Jones's early stages with soccer, his record for caps definitely came as a surprise. During his time at Westlake High School in Los Angeles, he wasn't named to any all-tournament, all-conference, or all-league teams. "I even had a coach tell me in high school that I was the worst player he'd ever seen," said Jones.

The lack of recruiting led to Jones walking on at UCLA, where he played for head coach Sigi Schmid.

His performances catapulted him to the 1992 Olympics squad and the Men's National Team, becoming a member of three World Cup teams in 1994, 1998, and 2002.

An original member of the L.A. Galaxy, he captained the team and won five championships during his time with the club: the 2000 CONCACAF Champions Cup, 2001 U.S. Open Cup, 2002 Major League Soccer Cup, and the 2005 "double," winning both the U.S. Open Cup and MLS Cup.



Rick Davis

MIDFIELDER

35 CAPS (1977-88)

In 1978, there was no guarantee that teenager Rick Davis would end up being one of the outstanding American soccer products in the 1980s and captain of the U.S. Men's National Team.

So when the New York Cosmos signed him to a contract that year, it caused a sensation. While considered a solid collegiate player, he had only played one year at Santa Clara. He quickly proved the Cosmos correct, winning the 1979 North American Player of the Year award in his second season and helping the team to three titles.

"Al Mistri, my high school coach, had Walt Chyzowych give me a look," said Davis. "I was invited to a Youth National Team camp and Eddie Firmani [then coach of Tampa Bay in the National American Soccer League] came to scout. He moved on to the Cosmos and asked if I wanted to come to the team. I was in college then, but college soccer wasn't what I wanted, so I took the shot at the Cosmos."

At the National Team level, Rick played for the U-20 Men's National Team and helped the U.S. team qualify for 1980 Olympics, but he didn't compete because of the United States' boycott. A consistent player for the National Team in the 1980s, Davis was captain of the 1988 Olympic team.





Eddie Lewis

MIDFIELDER
82 CAPS (1996–2008)

Two-time World Cup veteran Eddie Lewis spent the better part of his 12-year U.S. Men's National Team tenure providing precision free kicks and dangerous balls from the left flank, earning the reputation as one of the team's strongest left-sided midfielders. Through U.S. Soccer's first 100 years, Lewis tied for fourth all-time with 16 career assists.

That track record shone the brightest when he provided a memorable assist on Landon Donovan's goal during the USA's 2–0 victory against Mexico to advance to the quarterfinals of the 2002 FIFA World Cup. After receiving a pass from John O'Brien, Lewis took a quick touch on his left-sided run and then crossed from a couple feet

outside the box to find Donovan for the header at the far post as the U.S. team grabbed a two-goal cushion in the 65th minute.

"Eddie was the perfect example of a guy who went unnoticed through the early part of the system but exploded later on," said former Men's National Team teammate and defender Gregg Berhalter. "He was resilient and the type of guy that doesn't get fazed by things too easily. He was very strong in tough situations, and he looked at the game in a good way. He was a specialist in crossing the ball and shooting the ball. He was a very intelligent player, and I think he made a lot out of his career. He was a great person and great guy to play with."



Mike Sorber

MIDFIELDER
67 CAPS (1992–98)

With a St. Louis pedigree, it was probably destined that Mike Sorber would become a soccer player. Sorber won two state championships and went on to St. Louis University, where he made a Final Four appearance and was a Hermann Trophy finalist with the Billikens before becoming a significant factor for the Men's National Team both as a player and an assistant coach.

While Sorber has been possibly the most unsung hero of the United States' 1994 FIFA World Cup team, head coach Bora Milutinovic remarked at the time, "When you analyze the World Cup, Sorber was probably our MVP. It is difficult for me to explain what I feel about him. He is disciplined

and intelligent." Sorber played nearly every minute of the U.S. team's four 1994 World Cup matches, and over his six-year career he played 67 times for the Men's National Team.

After playing two seasons with Pumas in Mexico, he joined Major League Soccer and played five seasons for Kansas City, New York/New Jersey, New England, and Chicago, helping the Chicago Fire reach the 2000 MLS Cup Final. After his playing career, he turned to coaching, first as an assistant at St. Louis University and then with the National Team under Bob Bradley.

Tab Ramos

MIDFIELDER

81 CAPS (1988–2000)

It can be argued that Tab Ramos was ahead of his time. His touch on the ball was delicate and creative and his first step was a nightmare for defenders. His style and strength on the ball was something the U.S. Men's National Team hadn't seen in the past. His shot packed a punch, despite his five-foot-seven frame, and it all led Ramos to be one of the most influential midfielders the United States has ever produced.

"When you look back and you look at the players today, I think he has been one of the best midfielders that we've had in the United States—a combination of Clint Dempsey and Landon Donovan," said former National Team teammate Fernando Clavijo. "His knowledge and competitive drive were superb. He was someone that all the players at the National Team level looked up to, somebody who could make a difference in any given game, and somebody who could definitely win games for you and make a difference. At the time, he was a different animal for the United States, and I would say one of the most technical players I've seen play in the U.S."

Born in Uruguay and the son of a professional soccer player, Ramos came to the United States at the age of 11 and quickly made an impact. The National Soccer Hall of Fame inductee and 1990 U.S. Soccer Athlete of the Year was on the U.S. Under-20 Men's National Team at the age of 16, competing in the 1983 FIFA U-20 World Cup, and became a three-time All-American at North Carolina State before featuring for the Men's National Team in the 1988 Olympics.

A veteran of three World Cup tournaments (1990, 1994, and 1998), Ramos was a central figure in putting U.S. soccer on the world stage while also helping launch the game at a domestic level as the first player ever signed by Major League Soccer in 1995. It was a risky move for Ramos, who had carved out a successful career in Spain, but it was one that paid off in the end.







Claudio Reyna

CHIEF FIELDER
1994-2007

Arguably one of the best players to ever don the U.S. jersey, Reyna's quality and ability to dictate the tempo in midfield was evident from the outset of his career with the U.S. Men's National Team.

"When you give him the ball, everything settles down," said National Team teammate Earnie Stewart. "The game is at ease. The game is at peace. He had that at a young age. He could always keep possession and everything calms down around him."

Earning a spot on the team's roster for the 1994 FIFA World Cup, he would go on to play prominent roles in the 1998, 2002, and 2006 FIFA World Cup tournaments, captaining the squad in 2002 and 2006. Earning him the nickname "Captain America," his performance in the 2-0 victory against Mexico in the Round of 16 in Korea epitomized the incredible influence he could have on a game. He went on to be named to the FIFA All-World Cup First Team. Reyna was also entrusted with helping lead a new generation of players like Landon Donovan, Clint Dempsey, and Carlos Bocanegra into the fray.

"He was as much at ease as our captain as he was with the ball at his feet," said Stewart. "He understands the game like nobody else. You can speak to him about soccer situations, and he always has an answer to everything. He was one of the players that I looked up to and made sure that if there were problems on the field, then you would look to him. In my belief, he's the best player that the United States has ever produced."

Reyna's success on the field extended to the club level during a 13-year career in Europe. He played for the Bundesliga's Bayer Leverkusen and Wolfsburg from 1995 to 1999 and then moved to the Rangers of the Scottish Premier League from 1998 to 2002, where he helped them to their 11th title in 12 years, in 2000. He had stints at Sunderland and Manchester City of the Premier League from 2001 to 2007, before ending his career with the New York Red Bulls of Major League Soccer.

Earnie Stewart

MIDFIELDER
101 CAPS (1990–2004)

Earnie Stewart proved during his career that he could make a big impact on big stages, and no one took greater pride in representing the United States. In three FIFA World Cups in 1994, 1998, and 2002, and throughout World Cup qualification matches, Stewart pieced together some memorable feats during his 14 years with the U.S. Men's National Team. Thirty of his 101 international appearances were World Cup qualifiers, and nine of his 17 career goals came in those matches.

Stewart is best known for scoring the game-winning goal during a 2–1 victory against Colombia in the 1994 FIFA World Cup, marking the first USA win in a World Cup match since 1950 and propelling U.S. soccer into the knockout stage.

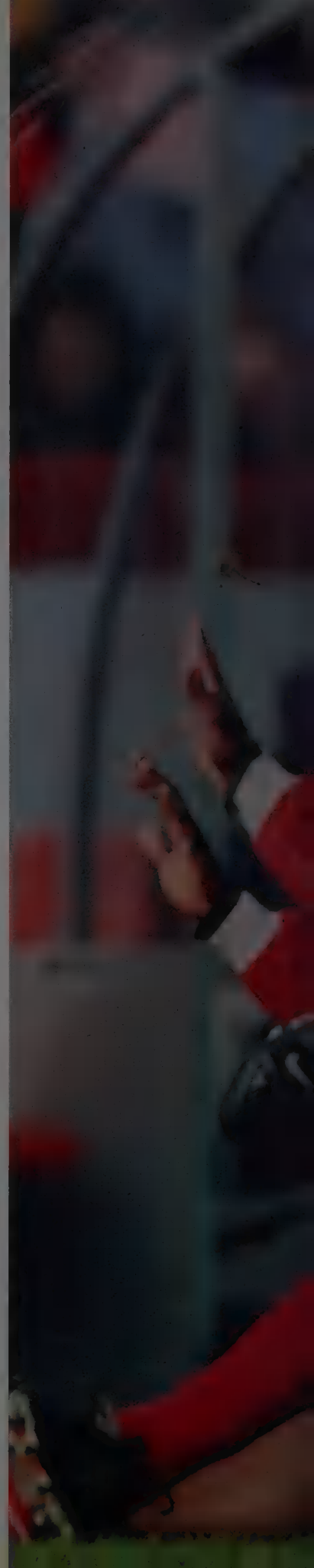
During his time with the National Team, Stewart was named U.S. Soccer Player of the Year in 2001, when he scored five goals in 10 games.

"Earnie obviously brought quality to the National Team,"

said former teammate Cobi Jones. "He had speed and skill up and down the line. He was a goal scorer and could play up front. He was without a doubt one of the best. He liked to have fun on the field and knew not to take everything seriously. He brought that fun view of the game where nothing would get him down. He could be having a bad day and still have a good time."

Born to a Dutch mother and an American father, Stewart lived in California from age two to seven and grew up in the Netherlands. His professional career kicked off in 1990 with Venlose Voetbal Vereniging and then Willem II before playing at NAC Breda and Major League Soccer's D.C. United.

Following his playing career, Stewart moved to the technical side with NAC Breda in 2006 and was named the technical director of Dutch Eredivisie's AZ Alkmaar heading into the 2010–11 season.







Clint Dempsey

BY [illegible]
PHOTOGRAPH BY [illegible]



A notoriously fierce competitor, Clint Dempsey has come a long way from Nacogdoches, Texas, to become one of the best players to ever represent the United States.

Dempsey earned Major League Soccer Rookie of the Year honors in 2004 with the New England Revolution. In 2007, he signed with Fulham, where despite several changes in management, he proved himself time and again. By the time he moved to Tottenham Hotspur, he had amassed more goals for Fulham than any player before him and had set the record for goals by an American in the Premier League.

With Dempsey acting as the creative spark for the Men's National Team, his stats are most impressive when the USA needs him the most. He scored in three straight games in the 2009 FIFA Confederations Cup, tallying against Egypt and Spain, and providing the USA a 1-0 lead against Brazil in the final. For his efforts, he earned the Bronze Ball as the tournament's third best player.

He also became only the second player in U.S. history to score in multiple World Cups, tallying his first against Ghana in 2006 and his second four years later when he shook off Steven Gerrard and scored the game-tying goal against England in the opening group game in South Africa. Two games later, his fearless run into the box set up Landon Donovan's historic game winner against Algeria.

"I think when you talk about putting a team together you always think, who are the guys you can count on in the toughest days?" said former Men's National Team head coach Bob Bradley. "Who are the guys who aren't afraid of those moments and can make a difference? You've got to have players with that mentality and toughness. Clint's pure competitiveness tries to find ways to win. He has the ability to make something out of nothing—to make a chance when there doesn't seem to be one, whether for himself or somebody else. In his career, he has made great strides in terms of how to fit his qualities in with the rest of the team, and he has the ability to make plays that make a difference."



Landon Donovan

BY JEFF KATZ
CAPTAIN OF THE U.S. TEAM

Don't let the U.S. men's national team's lack of success in the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa fool you. Landon Donovan has established himself as one of the most important players ever for the United States.

Donovan represented the U.S. at every youth international level, including the 2000 Olympics in Sydney. His breakout on the world stage came at the 2002 FIFA World Cup, where his goal against Mexico in the Round of 16 secured the team's victory and its best finish in the tournament in 74 years. Eight years later, Donovan again showed his prowess in a group game in South Africa, sparking the comeback from a 1-0 draw, and setting the stage for the dramatic comeback in the 92nd minute against Algeria that saved the U.S. on pace for the knockout phase, and set off a wave of American soccer the United States.

He is the U.S. national team's leader in goals scored in World Cup and World Cup qualifying games, and he holds the record for the most points in a single year. On the pitch, he is a versatile player, capable of playing in any position. He is a versatile player, capable of playing in any position. He is a versatile player, capable of playing in any position.

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Joe Gaetjens

FORWARD
3 CAPS (1950)

Special moments that echo in history and culture are exceedingly rare. Few athletes are fortunate enough to have an achievement that lives for decades and is a touchstone of their sport.

Joe Gaetjens is one of the privileged few. His glancing header that deflected Walter Bahr's shot into England's net and gave the United States a 1-0 victory in the 1950 FIFA World Cup was so stunning that it was believed to be a typo when the first reports were wired out of Belo Horizonte,

Brazil. Assuming it was 10-0 for England, one disbelieving recipient cabled back: "Please resend result." It was the only goal Gaetjens ever scored for the U.S. team, but it remains among the most famous in the history of the game.

"He was very quick, and anytime a cross would come he was dangerous because he would find a way to get his head to the ball," said National Team teammate Harry Keough. "He had good timing. That goal was a classic example."

Not even a U.S. citizen at the time (in that era simply declaring your "intention to become a citizen" was acceptable), Gaetjens had left Haiti for the United States to study accounting at Columbia University in 1947.

He played in France before going back to Haiti, where eventually he became embroiled in the upheavals during the 1960s. Despite his fame, he was arrested and not heard from again. The exact events of his disappearance are still unknown.





Billy Gonsalves

FORWARD
6 CAPS (1930–34)

Born in Fall River, Mass., Billy Gonsalves started his soccer career at the age of 14 as the child of Portuguese immigrants from the island of Madeira. Years later, after playing at the highest levels for parts of four decades, Gonsalves left the field as a two-time World Cup choice, an eight-time U.S. Open Cup champion, and as one of the most dominant shot takers in the early years of American soccer.

Tall, lean, and powerful, Gonsalves was blessed with immensely thick legs that earned him the nickname “Piano Legs.” His powerful shots were legendary, and stories about their splitting holes in nets and knocking out the teeth of goalkeepers were common place. Against a Czech team, Gonsalves’s free kick struck a defender, who despite having his back turned, was knocked out for 15 minutes.

“He was the greatest shooter I ever saw, with either leg,” said 1934 World Cup teammate Walter Dick.

He played for a variety of New England–based teams including Pioneer, Charlton Mill, Lusitania, and Boston Wanderers prior to returning home to help Fall River become a dominant American team. He also played for St. Louis Central Breweries, Baer and Fuller of St. Louis, Stix, and New Bedford Whalers.





Brian McBride

FORWARD
95 CAPS (1993–2006)

Brian McBride was one of the greatest strikers produced in the United States, regularly finding the net for the U.S. Men's National Team during his 95 appearances, but it was also his competitive, tough on-field character that made him a fan favorite.

McBride made a specialty of absorbing defenders' challenges, and his toughness was vividly on display, whether it was the black eye that rivaled those in *Rocky* movies that he suffered during a World Cup qualifier against Mexico or the flagrant elbow from an Italian player during the 2006 FIFA World Cup that was plastered on the front page of newspapers across the globe.

A three-time FIFA World Cup veteran, McBride figured

in numerous historic moments for the U.S. team. He scored the lone goal against Iran in a dramatic international encounter at the 1998 FIFA World Cup and then in 2002 scored the third and decisive goal to help the USA upend favored Portugal in the team's opening game. That strike against Portugal enabled him to become the first American to score goals in multiple World Cups. He went on to score the game-winning goal in the memorable 2–0 victory against Mexico in the Round of 16.

A native of Arlington Heights, Ill., McBride was an All-American in high school before heading for the soccer-mad St. Louis University, where he became a collegiate All-American. His pro career started

with the Milwaukee Rampage, then he headed to Germany, where VfL Wolfsburg gave him a major opportunity.

In 1996, he became the first-ever draft pick of Major League Soccer and played eight seasons with the Columbus Crew, getting named in 2005 to the league's All-Time Best XI. He also made waves overseas during stints with Everton and Fulham, creating such a stir at Craven Cottage that in 2009 the club renamed the bar inside the stadium "McBride's."

When he finally retired, he had scored 30 times for the USA, 80 for his MLS clubs, and 40 more in England and Germany, including 33 during his career at Fulham.



Joe-Max Moore

FORWARD
100 CAPS (1992–2002)

While still at UCLA, Joe-Max Moore first appeared for the United States in the 1989 FIFA World Youth Championship, and two years later he scored the winning goal against Mexico in the Pan American Games championship in Cuba. Named to the 1994 World Cup team, he went on to play in the 1998 and 2002 World Cups as well, ultimately retiring from National Team duty with 100 caps.

Noted for his consistent

scoring prowess and tenacity, he pursued his club career in Germany, leading two different clubs—F.C. Saarbrücken and F.C. Nuremberg—in scoring in back-to-back years. In 1996, Moore was allocated to New England for the inaugural season of Major League Soccer, playing 90 games and scoring 49 goals in four seasons. He went on to play in the English Premier League for Everton before eventually retiring in 2004.

"For whatever reason, he's

one of those players who didn't get a lot of attention and he should have," said Men's National Team teammate Brad Friedel. "I don't think a lot of people really appreciate how many positives Joe brought to a team. Every player who has ever played with Joe knows how much of an integral part of a team he could be. He was just a winner."



Bruce Murray

FORWARD
85 CAPS (1985–93)

Coming of age in the mid-1980s, Bruce Murray didn't have a major league to play in, but that didn't deter him from reaching for greatness. When he retired from the Men's National Team after the 1993 campaign, he was the nation's all-time leader in goals and caps with 21 and 85, respectively.

He had a brilliant college career at South Carolina's Clemson University and was *Soccer America* magazine's choice for its College Team of the Century. He played in the American Professional Soccer League with Washington and Maryland and in the United Kingdom, but he found his true calling with the U.S. National Team.

Murray played in all of the United States' 10 qualifying matches in 1988 and 1989, and every game in the 1990 World Cup in Italy, scoring the United States' goal against Austria in its last game. He helped the U.S. team win the 1991 CONCACAF Gold Cup and the 1992 U.S. Cup, and also played for the United States in the 1988 Olympics, the 1992 Intercontinental Cup, and the 1993 Copa America.



Hugo Perez

FORWARD
73 CAPS (1984–94)

A native of El Salvador, Hugo Perez became an American citizen as a teenager and shortly thereafter joined the U.S. National Team. With impressive technical skills and an ability to score goals, he moved up through the National Team levels.

He played every minute of the 1983 World Youth Championship and every game of the 1984 Olympics, and a year later he was contributing to the full Men's National Team. He scored a crucial game-winning goal—against El Salvador—during a qualifying match for the 1990 World Cup, and by 1991 he was consistently in the lineup.

Perez played in France, Sweden, and Saudi Arabia, honing the skills that convinced Bora Milutinovic to select him for the 1994 FIFA World Cup.

"Hugo Perez was the most skillful player I had ever seen and had the opportunity to play with," said Men's National Team teammate Tab Ramos. "He was the guy I looked at and said, 'Wow, I wish I could play like him.' He was a little bit older and was the point of reference, really. You always knew that if the ball went to him you had a very good opportunity at goal, whether he created it for himself or someone else."

Bert Patenaude

FORWARD

4 CAPS (1930)

A star of the 1930 FIFA World Cup team and a prodigious goal scorer throughout his entire career, Bert Patenaude (below, at right) was stirring evidence that American players, fully trained and developed in the United States, were capable of asserting themselves for both club and country in the late 1920s.

He was born in Fall River, Mass., and fell under the influence of that soccer-rich area, ultimately winning two U.S. Open Cup championships with

his hometown Marksmen.

A sports columnist of that era wrote: "Championships are won the hard way by some athletes. To others they come easy. But for athletes like Bert Patenaude, titles follow them wherever they are."

But it was the 1930 World Cup that put Patenaude into the record books. He wasn't even originally in the selection. Only when Archie Stark declined to go to Uruguay did coach Robert Millar add Patenaude to the roster, and what a propitious

change of plans that turned out to be.

Just 20 years old at the time, Patenaude scored a header against Belgium in the opening game and then went right for the record books in the match on July 17 against Paraguay, becoming the first man to score a hat trick at a World Cup.





Kyle Rote, Jr.

FORWARD
5 CAPS (1973-75)

By today's standards, Kyle Rote, Jr.'s five caps for the U.S. Men's National Team isn't impressive, but the overall impact he had on the sport both on and off the field in the early and mid-1970s was vital to soccer's growth in the United States.

With a famous last name (his father was a star in the NFL), Rote didn't even turn his attention to soccer until he was in his mid-teens. But once he did, he was vital in transforming the North American Soccer League and the sport itself into a game that welcomed and celebrated American players.

On the field, he played seven seasons in the NASL with Dallas and Houston, earning acclaim for his ability to score goals, though he readily admitted that he didn't have outstanding technical skills.

Off the field, Rote was the "face" of the NASL, winning the popular television program Superstars's sports competition between elite athletes three times and being featured in *Sports Illustrated*.

"Ron Newman—my coach at Dallas—helped me develop the idea that we had to 'sell' the game," said Rote. "All the players were there to play, win, and represent Dallas well, but there was an emphasis on being a soccer missionary and we all embraced it. We were hopeful that the seeds we were planting would grow into trees, the shade of which we'd never see. Current glory? It wasn't about that. We'd practice four days a week, but we were expected to be extremely cooperative with the community-relations people, the schools, the clubs, the churches. Anytime, anywhere."

Archie Stark

BY MICHAEL
J. BARNES

There is no denying the stark reality of the situation in football. A few strong teams and a few weaker ones. Every year, the football community expects that in the coming five or six years, the development of the game will be a great deal more rapid than it has been in the past.

As a consequence of the type of development, the football game will be a great deal more rapid than it has been in the past.

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Peter Vermes

FORWARD

66 CAPS (1988–97)

In 1977, Peter Vermes and his father, who played for famed Honved in Budapest in the 1950s, traveled to Hungary to see a World Cup–qualifying match. Peter, just 11 years old, told his father he would one day play for the United States. He was right.

From the moment he was first noticed by U.S. coaches in the late 1980s, Vermes was a regular at the National Team level for 10 years. He debuted in 1988, played in the Olympics that year and two years later the 1990 FIFA World Cup, coming inches from scoring a goal against Italy.

Vermes played for clubs in Hungary, the Netherlands, and Spain before coming back to be one of the MLS inaugural players as captain of the New York/New Jersey MetroStars, now as a defender. He went on to play for Colorado and Kansas City, where he won the 2000 MLS Cup and was named Defender of the Year.

“Peter was one of the core guys in the team and a leader,” said Men’s National Team teammate Bruce Murray. “He was very strong, could hold the ball up and bring people into the game. In big games, you really wanted Peter on the field.”





Eric Wynalda

FORWARD

106 CAPS (1990–2000)

When the mold for goal scorers was made, Eric Wynalda might very well have been the design. He terrorized goalkeepers in Major League Soccer, Germany's Bundesliga, and worldwide as a star of the U.S. Men's National Team during a 20-year career that included three FIFA World Cups.

The tall and stylish player achieved honors at every stop along the way, being named the Honda U.S. Player of the Decade for the 1990s as well as earning a spot on the CONCACAF All-Decade team. He had already won the Bundesliga's Best Newcomer title when he became the first American to play for a first-tier club with FC Saarbrücken in 1992.

Possessing a knack for getting critical goals, "Waldo" struck home a magnificent free kick against Switzerland in the USA's opening match of the 1994 FIFA World Cup, the 1–1 draw earning a critical point in the effort to advance to the second round.

"Wynalda's goal in the 1994 World Cup was an incredible moment for him but it was also an incredible moment for the team," said Men's National Team teammate Alexi Lalas.

"Wynalda is a character and personality to say the least, and his confidence in his abilities, his ego, his arrogance—that we all have—he's got it in spades. He loves the big moment and that moment came against Switzerland. I mean he could not have hit the free kick any more perfectly and it was complete pandemonium and mayhem in the Silver Dome. The stadium just started shaking and rocking and we had a big pile on."

A year later, Wynalda was a force in the USA's eye-opening run to the semifinals of the Copa America, scoring twice against Chile and once against mighty Argentina. Overall, he scored 34 times for the U.S. Men's National Team, which at the time of his retirement was the all-time lead.

Wynalda is in the history books on the domestic scene, too, having scored the first goal in Major Soccer League history and giving San Jose a 1–0 victory against D.C. United in the inaugural game.

Walt Chyzowych

HEAD COACH
1976–80

Ukrainian by birth, Walt Chyzowych played for the United States, became a champion of the American player, and served as National Team coach longer than anyone in history—1976 to 1980—until Bora Milutinovic equaled him in the mid-1990s.

His tenure came at a time when National Team activity was not as robust as today, but he seized the opportunity to infuse the team with a competitive spirit and became an abiding influence in the lives of his players.

He came to the United States in 1947 after fleeing the Russian advance through Ukraine late in World War II, ultimately reaching a displaced persons camp in Munich. He had the promise of a cabinetmaking job in the United States, and that expedited his clearance to emigrate, a happy circumstance for American soccer.

Even beyond playing for and coaching the U.S. Men's National Team, his resume is impressive. He was a college all-American and played for a variety of amateur and pro teams before making an impressive impact as a coach. A legendary college coach for Philadelphia Textile and Wake Forest University, he also led the U.S. Olympic Team and Youth National Teams.

Throughout it all, he conducted coaching courses across the nation, helping shape the coaching for the enormous outpouring of participation that the 1970s North American Soccer League unleashed.



Bob Gansler

HEAD COACH
1989-91

For 40 years Bob Gansler played and coached at the highest levels of the game in the United States, developing National Teams at all levels, winning titles at the professional level, winning the U.S. Open Cup, and playing 25 times for the Men's National Team along the way.

He was a product of Chicago's powerful soccer tradition, and he played in the semipro leagues as a young man. When pro soccer began to take off in 1967, he joined the National Professional Soccer League and continued with the North American Soccer League, when it stepped forward in 1968. In the same era, he captained the U.S. Olympic team and the Pan American team.

It was in coaching where Gansler left his biggest mark. He led the team to the 1990 World Cup, the first time America had reached the tournament in 40 years, and he did it without the benefit of, as he puts it, "a sophisticated scouting or player development system or a major league." He had already had the benefit of observing some of the talent pool when he served as coach for the Under-20 Men's National Team, which had reached both the 1987 and 1989 FIFA World Youth Championships.

"Before the 1990 World Cup, Bob Gansler and his staff really had to scan the country and use his contacts to find players; they had to turn over every stone in

America," said Men's National Team goalkeeper Tony Meola. "It wasn't like now. You couldn't turn on a TV and watch someone perform. You didn't have Major League Soccer. You couldn't go to England and see the players in the Premier League. It was just an amazing, amazing feat, what they did. I don't know that there is anyone in this day, in this age, or in this sport that has the patience to do what they did."

Later in his career, he led Kansas City to a MLS Cup and a U.S. Open Cup title, and he took Coach of the Year honors in 2000. He also lent his coaching skills to the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, the Milwaukee Rampage, and Toronto F.C.



Bora Milutinovic

HEAD COACH
1991–95

Bora.

That's all anyone needs to say to conjure up the coach of America's 1994 World Cup team. Soccer gypsy. Irrepressible. Baffling at times. Journalists called his style the "Milutinovic Mystique."

He came from a famous soccer family in his native Serbia, which was then part of Yugoslavia. He and his two brothers played for Partizan Belgrade. And from the first time he touched a ball or instructed a team, he was always an unforgettable ambassador and salesman for the sport.

Hired by U.S. Soccer to lead the United States into the cauldron of the 1994 World Cup on home soil, Bora arrived with a reputation of being able to guide teams to higher levels than many thought possible; he had done it with Mexico (1986) and with Costa Rica (1990), and 1994 was no exception.

Handed the job of molding the U.S. team into contenders without the benefit of a domestic league was a challenge but one he met head on. He worked with U.S. Soccer to play an aggressive schedule of 84 matches in the four

years leading up to the World Cup. He blended old and new players into a mix that saw the USA reach the Round of 16, an achievement that put another exclamation point on the growth of American soccer in the late 20th century.

"Bora was fantastic as a manager," said U.S. midfielder John Harkes. "He changed the awareness of the game in the United States, and he handled the pressure we felt hosting the World Cup. He was the right character to handle the pressure. It was likely going to be seen as a 'failure' not to

get out of the first round, but Bora took the pressure off of us. He didn't want us just to be athletes; he wanted a team that could deal with pressure situations. There was nobody better at instilling confidence."

Overall, Bora coached nine different National Teams: Mexico (twice), Costa Rica, the United States, Nigeria, Peru, China, Honduras, Jamaica, Qatar, and Iraq—taking five of them to World Cups.





Steve Sampson

By Tim Lincecum
and
Gregory Healy

and found this in coach Mike Eruzione. "I never knew anybody who could do what he could do over the course of his career," says Sampson. "I never knew anybody like him."

After playing in college, Sampson moved to the wrestling program at the high school level. He was an all-around athlete, but his master's sport was wrestling. It didn't take him long to become the state champion, and in 1982 he was wrestling for the University of Utah.

He played the 86-XX (the run of 1987).

Initial fans were skeptical that this was a viable idea, and he was a little bit of a headcrack in 1989, during Bruce Arena's inaugural season. But he was a good player, and he was a good coach. He was a good player, and he was a good coach. He was a good player, and he was a good coach.

In 1997, he joined the U.S. national team, and he was a good player, and he was a good coach. He was a good player, and he was a good coach. He was a good player, and he was a good coach.

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Following his time with the U.S. team, he was a good player, and he was a good coach. He was a good player, and he was a good coach. He was a good player, and he was a good coach.

At the time, he was a good player, and he was a good coach. He was a good player, and he was a good coach. He was a good player, and he was a good coach.





Bruce Arena

HEAD COACH
1998–2006

Following the 1998 World Cup, there were serious questions about the future of the U.S. Men's National Team. U.S. Soccer found the answer in Bruce Arena. The former coach of D.C. United and the University of Virginia not only turned around the team's fortunes, he also embarked on what was arguably the most successful tenure for a coach in team history.

With Arena, the U.S. team achieved its best modern-era finish at the FIFA World Cup, reaching the quarterfinals in 2002 before losing a controversial game to world-power Germany. The USA reached its highest FIFA ranking—that of 4th—in April 2006 under Arena, astonishing pundits and fans after the team was ranked as low as 31st shortly after Arena took the reins.

He led the U.S. team to two CONCACAF Gold Cup titles in 2002 and 2005, as well as first place in CONCACAF World Cup qualification matches for the 2006 FIFA World Cup. That campaign was one of the best home defenses of qualifying history, as the U.S. team not only went undefeated in five home games during the final round of qualifying but also didn't even concede a single goal. During his eight years as head coach, Arena compiled a record of 71–30–29, earning a .658 winning percentage.

"He turned the National Team around," said former U.S. defender Eddie Pope. "The importance of that is massive. The program wasn't going in the right direction; a lot of people were looking down on the team, down on U.S. Soccer and down on soccer in America. The USA's performance at the 2002 World Cup steered the ship in the right direction and gave U.S. Soccer such a boost. People were up at three or four o'clock in the morning watching the games, and it was all over the media. The league needed it and American soccer needed it. He came along at the right time. He was that shot in the arm that American soccer needed."

Bob Bradley

HEAD COACH
2007-11

The list of achievements is impressive, no matter what the name on the resume. Winning the 2007 CONCACAF Gold Cup title, and reaching the final again in 2009 and 2011. Beating No. 1-ranked Spain, one of the most accomplished teams ever in world soccer, ending the eventual World Cup champion's unbeaten run of nearly three years. Leading the United States to its first championship match of a major FIFA tournament, the 2009 FIFA Confederations Cup final against Brazil. Finishing first in CONCACAF in World Cup qualification matches. Winning the group at the 2010 FIFA World Cup, a first for any U.S. team in the tournament's history.

Under the scrutiny of increased expectations, Bob Bradley guided the U.S. Men's National Team to some of its most significant and memorable results.

"Bob is an extremely organized coach, and he really drove the team, putting into it everything he had," said U.S. defender Carlos Bocanegra. "He does a great job of getting the best out of the team and every individual player. He realized what our strengths were and really understood how to put a team out on the field to give you the best possible chance to win."

After moving through the college ranks at Ohio University, the University of Virginia, and

Princeton, Bradley served as an assistant coach at D.C. United when the team captured the first two Major League Soccer Cups in 1996 and 1997. The following year, he led the Chicago Fire to the "double" as they captured the MLS Cup and the Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup, becoming the only expansion club in league history to win the title in its inaugural season.

After a spell with the MetroStars, he oversaw a transformation at Chivas USA in 2006, when the team went from the worst record in the league in 2005 to the playoffs the following year, collecting his second MLS Coach of the Year award.



Jurgen Klinsmann

HEAD COACH
UNITED STATES

When U.S. Soccer sought a new approach to selecting the National Team and the game in this country, it made perfect sense to turn to a man whose career as a coach and player was characterized by seeking and excelling on new frontiers.

Jurgen Klinsmann entered the role as a head coach of the U.S. Men's National Team as one of the most accomplished players in history. He scored 47 goals in 108 appearances for the German National Team and won the 1990 FIFA World Cup and the 1996 European Championship. During a 17-year professional career, he represented his nation in major tournaments in Europe and North America, winning the UEFA Cup and the German Super Cup in 1991 and Bayern Munich in 1998.

He brought innovative coaching methods to Germany when he was hired in 2004, restructuring the entire program and developing a dynamic, creative spirit and establishing a foundation that factors will beyond his tenure. The newly instilled team spirit and the players of the national team when they finished third at the 2006 FIFA World Cup.

Klinsmann brings a unique philosophy to the current National Team coach, which includes a willingness to be flexible and constantly be educated on the most cutting-edge thinking in all aspects of the game.







Mary Harvey

GOALKEEPER
27 CAPS (1989–96)

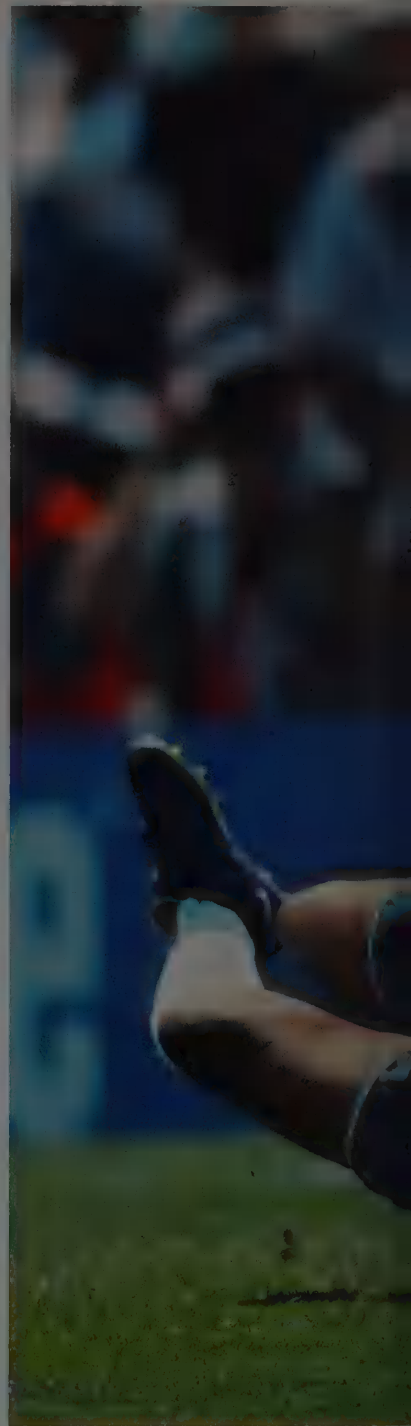
There have been many talented goalkeepers in U.S. Women's National Team history, but Mary Harvey was the first to win a world championship. Harvey earned the starting spot in China even though she played in just one match in 1991 prior to the FIFA Women's World Cup. She ended up playing every minute of all six games in the tournament while earning three shutouts.

Harvey would earn backup spots on the rosters for both the 1995 Women's World Cup and the historic 1996 Olympics, and she would play in 16 games spanning between 1992 and 1996.

"I can tell you that I was very

confident as a player with her behind me," said Women's National Team teammate Linda Hamilton. "I think we're pretty fortunate. For me, it would be those moments when I'm like, 'Crap, my man just beat me. Yeah! There's my 'keeper'! She provided that safety net. It was that sort of confidence when you know if you mess up, she's going to make the save."

After her playing days, Harvey made an impact on the women's game off the field as well, working for FIFA in women's football development, where she was the first woman and first American hired by the international governing body to run a division.



Briana Scurry

GOALKEEPER
173 CAPS (1994–2008)



Briana Scurry was in goal during many of the greatest moments in U.S. Women's National Team history. The most accomplished goalkeeper ever to pull on the gloves for the USA in terms of games played, starts, wins, and shutouts, Scurry was a member of three Olympic teams, winning two gold medals and a silver, and was the U.S. team's starter in three Women's World Cup tournaments.

While her tremendous consistency and ability to perform under pressure were perhaps her greatest hallmarks, of course her iconic save during

the now-famous shootout at the 1999 FIFA Women's World Cup Final is what she will be most remembered for.

Scurry flew to her left to push away China's third shootout attempt during the culture-shifting match. That save (pictured above) set the stage for her teammates to bury all five of their kicks, including Brandi Chastain's fifth and deciding shot.

"She had the two most important dimensions as a goalkeeper—athleticism and mental skills," said former Women's National Team head

coach Tony DiCicco. "Those are the toughest things to teach. She started to make special saves. Saves that won games and saves that were special in anyone's eyes. She emerged as the best goalkeeper in the world. I think the other outstanding goalkeeper in that era was Gao Hong from China, but in the head-to-head competition in penalty kicks in 1999, you saw Briana come up with the big saves. At that time Briana was the best goalkeeper in the world."

She stepped away from the game after the 1999 Women's

World Cup and was the backup on the 2000 Olympic team, but over the following few years, she worked her way back into the mix and would end up being the USA's starter at the 2003 FIFA Women's World Cup and the 2004 Olympics. She was the backup on the 2007 FIFA Women's World Cup Team and ended her international career in 2008 as the alternate goalkeeper on the Olympic team.





Hope Solo

GOALKEEPER

134 CAPS (2000–PRESENT)

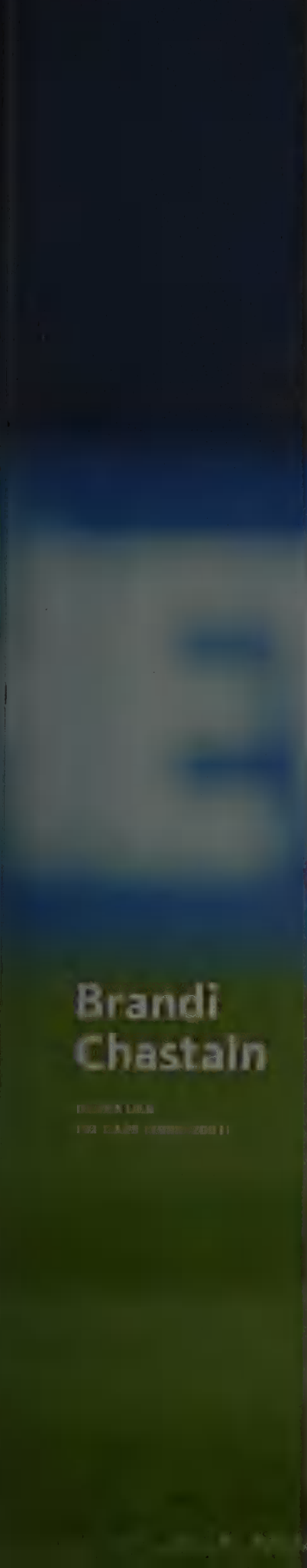
After making her international debut in 2000, it took Hope Solo more than five years to earn the starting spot in the U.S. goal. Once she did, her performance in more than 100 caps, two World Cups, and two Olympic games solidified her status as the world's best female goalkeeper and perhaps one of the best ever to play the game. Possessing tremendous athleticism, a vast competitive fire, excellent training ethic, and a world-class kicking game, her playing style entertained fans throughout the world.

Her superb play in both the 2008 and 2012 Olympic gold medal games was crucial to the USA winning both tournaments, and throughout her eight years as the U.S. team's starting goalkeeper, she has earned the second-highest number of caps, starts, wins, and shutouts in U.S. history.

"There's no doubt that Hope is the best goalkeeper in the world," said Women's National Team teammate Carli Lloyd. "There may never be another goalkeeper like her. She always does well in running the fitness tests and prides herself on being as fit as she can; she's amazingly athletic and she's fearless. Her leadership skills on the field—organizing the defense and her ability to continually come up with big saves in big moments—are world-class. Her personality is that no matter how much success she achieves, she continually wants to be the best and will never settle for anything less.

"We've been in many competitive training sessions together, whether it be playing five versus five or shooting drills, and Hope makes you better as a player. Against Hope, you can get a clear shot on goal, and so many times she just miraculously gets her fingertips on the ball and keeps it out of the net. That's what big-time goalkeepers do. You see it in practice, in scrimmages, and in games. She's just unbelievable on the field."





Brandi Chastain

WOMEN'S LEADER
FOR THE CLASS OF 2000

Brandi Chastain was at the center of perhaps the most iconic moment in U.S. Women's National Team history, when she nailed the winning penalty kick in the 1999 FIFA Women's World Cup Final in front of a sold-out crowd of 90,185 fans at the Rose Bowl, still the largest crowd ever to watch a women's sporting event. Her shirt-peeling celebration will forever be remembered as a flashpoint for women's soccer and women's sports. The celebration earned the cover of three major magazines and a lifetime of celebrity.

Chastain had a unique National Team career. She started as a forward in 1988 and set a U.S. record (since equaled several times) of scoring five goals in a game, which she accomplished off the bench

against Mexico during the qualifying matches for the 1991 FIFA Women's World Cup. She didn't play a game in 1989 or 1990, but she earned a spot on the 1991 Women's World Cup team after a stellar college career at California's Santa Clara University. She would wear her country's shirt sparingly in the early 1990s, missing the 1995 FIFA Women's World Cup, but she reinvented herself as a flank defender in 1996 and helped the USA win its first-ever Olympic gold medal. She would be an important player for the U.S. team from that point until she played her last game in 2004, earning 192 career caps.

"Brandi became the best attacking left back in the world," said former Women's National Team head coach Tony DiCicco. "She was so comfortable with

the ball. She made some passes that were phenomenal. She'd break into the penalty area and be one-on-one with the goalkeeper then just slip a ball, so somebody else could walk it in. She became one of our best playmakers. She was out of the team from 1992 to late 1995, but when she came back in she was my most sophisticated player. She did things on the field that actually helped teach some of the veterans how we wanted to play. She was invaluable for us to grow and get better leading into the 1999 World Cup."

Linda Hamilton

DEFENDER

71 CAPS (1987–95)

One of the pioneers of the U.S. Women's National Team, Linda Hamilton was known as a rugged, take-no-prisoners defender who played 72 times for her country and was a starter at both the 1991 and 1995 FIFA Women's World Cups. She played in all 12 games over those tournaments and was on the field for all but 98 minutes—in 1991, her efforts helped the USA lift the first-ever Women's

World Cup Trophy in China.

Hamilton played as a marking back in an era when the U.S. team featured a three-woman backline and was known for her ball-winning plays, brave tackles and air balls, and tenacious individual defending. Rarely would an opposing forward leave the field without a few bruises from Hamilton. She debuted for the USA in 1987 in the 15th match

in U.S. history and played on the National Team for nine years before retiring after the 1995 Women's World Cup in Sweden.





Joy Fawcett

DEFENDER

239 CAPS (1987–2004)

Joy Fawcett was the U.S. team's first soccer mom. She gave birth to three daughters during her National Team career and came back strong to make a major impact each time, ending her career with 239 caps as one of the greatest defenders in U.S. history. Traveling around the country and the world with kids in tow for the last 10 years of her career, Fawcett blazed a trail for the numerous future soccer moms on the U.S. team, showing it was possible to have kids and still be a professional soccer player at the highest levels.

Over four World Cups and three Olympic Games, Fawcett was perhaps the USA's most consistent player in those tournaments, going about her work in such an efficient and smooth manner that she made it look easy. Her final game, fittingly, was the 2004 Olympic gold medal game in which she played the full 120 minutes and helped shut down Brazil to earn a spot atop the podium.

"Joy was simply one of the best defenders in U.S. history," said Women's National Team teammate Heather Mitts. "Besides her supernatural ability

to bounce back after having three babies and still play at a world-class level, she was cool, composed, and consistent. Her consistency over so many years, games, and world championships was remarkable. Her strengths were that she played in a simple and efficient way offensively and very smart defensively. I learned a lot from her in the short time we played together, and I'm sure she had that impact on every defender she played with. She was also one of those pioneers that paved the way, changing the sport forever."

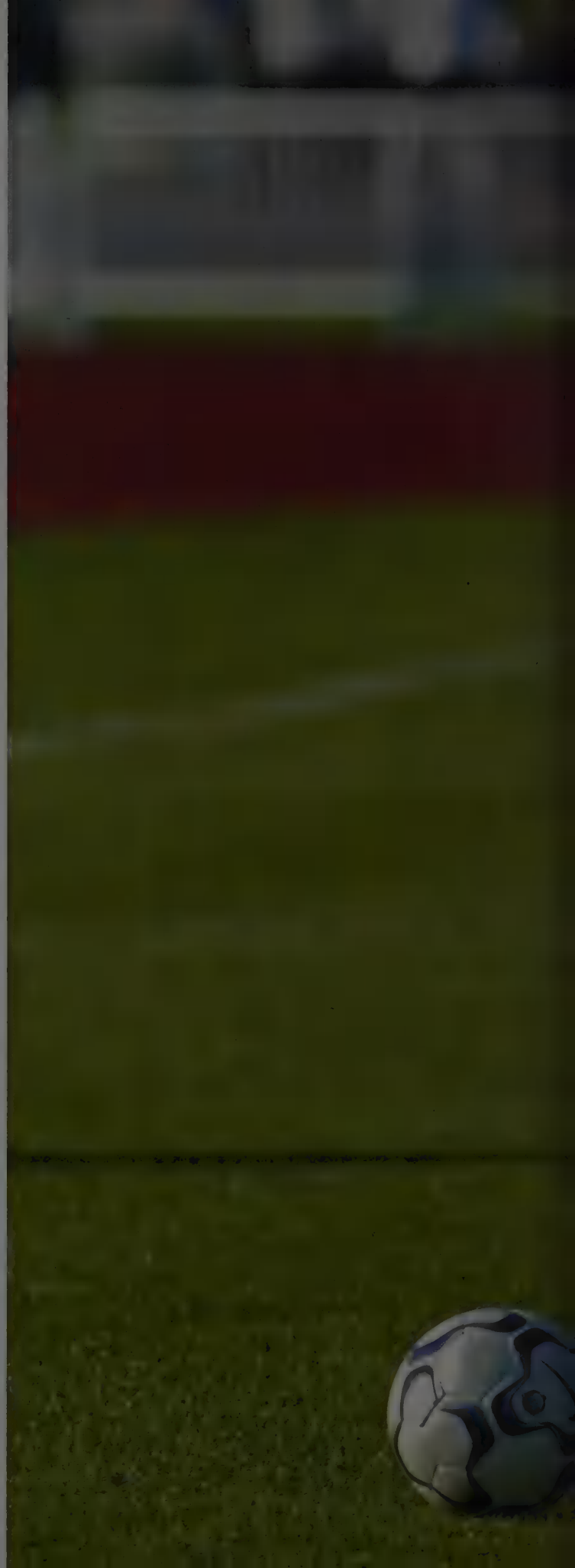
Lori Henry

DEFENDER

40 CAPS (1985-91)

Lori Henry was one of the pre-1991 pioneers of the U.S. Women's National Team, starting in the USA's first-ever game against Italy and becoming a key player in the run up to and through the 1991 FIFA Women's World Cup. Known for her tenacious marking and tackling ability, Henry was considered one of the true leaders within the team. While her 40 caps are modest by today's standards, those she played with can testify to her impact on the National Team, a legacy that is still remembered today.

"Lori was a big part of my first experiences on the Women's National Team," said teammate Julie Foudy. "She was one of the captains with April [Heinrichs]. Anson [Dorrance], April, and Lori had this kind of blue-collar work ethic that was the foundation for the team. I thought I was intense in games, but Lori made me look mild. She was so competitive that as a 16-year-old I was frightened of her. But at the same time, I loved her. She set up that feeling that no one was going to win a ball against us and no one was going to beat us."



Kate Markgraf

DEFENDER
241 CAPS (1998-2010)

After a tremendous career at Saint Barné, Kate Markgraf broke into the U.S. team in 1998 and held down a starting spot for the next 10 years, helping the U.S.A. win the 1999 FIFA Women's World Cup, as well as two Olympic titles. A tenacious defender with tremendous speed and bravery (no physical intimidation), Markgraf was also an intelligent player who could read the game very well.

"One of her great attributes was that she was an excellent reader of the game," said Women's National Team coach Pia Sundhage. "She always knew the position of the forwards and midfielders that we were going to receive and would force them to come in several ways or forms, but they wouldn't be as ready as she prepared players and I repeat made us better players by forcing us to be more of a difficult opponent, which was extremely helpful."

She had a goal in the 1996 Olympic tournament, but remained a defender for the 2007 FIFA Women's World Cup and the 2008 Olympic tournament. After having a career in the U.S. national team, she played for the Seattle Reign FC in the 2011 season and the 2012 season.





Carla Overbeck

DEFENDER

168 CAPS (1988–2000)

One of the greatest leaders and competitors in U.S. history, Carla Overbeck captained the National Team from 1993 through her retirement in 2000, helping the USA win the inaugural Olympic gold medal for women's soccer and lifting the 1999 FIFA Women's World Cup trophy.

Overbeck, who was Carla Werden when she anchored the U.S. defense to triumph at the 1991 FIFA Women's World Cup, is one of those responsible for helping create the winning mentality in the U.S. Women's National Team programs. She was one of two players to play every minute of each game at the 1995 Women's World Cup, the 1996 Olympics, and the 1999 Women's World Cup, and until the beginning of 2010, she held the record for the most consecutive matches played in

U.S. history.

She also famously nailed the USA's first penalty kick in the historic shootout at the 1999 FIFA Women's World Cup Final. One of the several U.S. players to have children during her career, she is also the longtime assistant women's soccer coach at Duke University.

"Carla Overbeck was one of the most inspiring teammates and leaders I ever played with," said Women's National Team teammate Christie Rampone. "She was a big influence on my career, especially as a young player just coming into the team. I looked up to her, she led by example and was an amazing player to be around and learn from. I credit her with much of my defensive mindset, and she taught me a lot about leadership. She was one of our first soccer moms—a great role model

on and off the field—and our friendship endures to this day."



Cat Whitehill

DEFENDER

134 CAPS (2000–10)

Cat Whitehill is one of the most-capped defenders in U.S. history and was a consistent presence on the U.S. back line during her career, at both outside back and in the center of the defense. She won a gold medal at the 2004 Olympics, where she played in every match, and started and played every minute of the 2007 FIFA Women's World Cup.

Known for her tremendous long-distance services and one of the hardest shots in U.S. soccer, Whitehill was a high-scoring defender. She tallied 11 times during her career, the second-most goals ever for a U.S. defender at the time of her retirement. She scored five times in 2006, the most goals for a defender in a calendar year. She was the only defender in U.S. history to score twice in a FIFA Women's World Cup match, accomplishing that feat against Korea DPR in 2003.

Christie Rampone

THE CENTER

BY JEFFREY M. HARRIS

Christie Rampone is perhaps the most unlikely legend in U.S. Women's soccer. A tough, no-nonsense defender, she was picked up by the U.S. national team in 1991 to play in the World Cup. She was the starting right back for the U.S. women's national team and she became a fan favorite. She played in the 1996 Olympic Games and the 2000 Olympic Games. She was named the best defender in the world in 1999 and 2000. She was named the best defender in the world in 1999 and 2000.

But her story is not just about her success on the field. It's about her journey from a small-town girl to a professional athlete. She was born in 1971 in a small town in New Hampshire. She was a soccer player from a young age. She was a soccer player from a young age.

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Shannon Boxx

MIDFIELDER
1984 (MAY 1984 PRESENT)

Shannon Boxx is a first-place finisher in the U.S. Soccer Hall of Fame. Boxx is a member of the U.S. Women's National Team, the first player to be named to the team. In 2000, at the age of 15, after an excellent pro career but little National Team experience, Boxx was called into the U.S. National training camp. Boxx is the Women's World Cup team captain. Boxx is the first player to be named to the U.S. Women's World Cup team. Boxx is the first player to be named to the U.S. Women's World Cup team. Boxx is the first player to be named to the U.S. Women's World Cup team.

She then became a consistent starter in the U.S. Women's National Team. Boxx is a member of the U.S. Soccer Hall of Fame. Boxx is a member of the U.S. Soccer Hall of Fame. Boxx is a member of the U.S. Soccer Hall of Fame. Boxx is a member of the U.S. Soccer Hall of Fame. Boxx is a member of the U.S. Soccer Hall of Fame.

Nicknamed "Bossy," she helped the U.S. team win the Olympic gold medal in 1996. Boxx competed in the 1996 Women's World Cup and 2001 U.S. Women's World Cup. Boxx is the first player to be named to the U.S. Women's World Cup team. Boxx is the first player to be named to the U.S. Women's World Cup team.

"Shannon Boxx is a great friend and one of the best ever players in the U.S. Women's National Team." Boxx is a member of the U.S. Soccer Hall of Fame. Boxx is a member of the U.S. Soccer Hall of Fame. Boxx is a member of the U.S. Soccer Hall of Fame. Boxx is a member of the U.S. Soccer Hall of Fame. Boxx is a member of the U.S. Soccer Hall of Fame. Boxx is a member of the U.S. Soccer Hall of Fame. Boxx is a member of the U.S. Soccer Hall of Fame. Boxx is a member of the U.S. Soccer Hall of Fame. Boxx is a member of the U.S. Soccer Hall of Fame. Boxx is a member of the U.S. Soccer Hall of Fame.





Lorrie Fair

DEFENDER/MIDFIELDER
120 CAPS (1996–2005)

While small in stature, Lorrie Fair was a talented defender and hard tackler who earned opportunities with the Women's National Team at an early age. A member of the U-20 Women's National Team in 1994, Fair was named an alternate for the 1996 Olympics while still only 17 years old. Three years later, she was the youngest player on the 1999 FIFA Women's World Cup team.

Overall, Fair put together an excellent 10-year Women's National Team career. Her best year was 2000, when she played in 33 games, scored six of her seven career goals, and played every minute of all five games at the Olympics in Australia. An outside back early in her career, she played center midfield during the Olympics, where she showcased her creativity and work ethic.

"Her technical ability, understanding of the game, fitness, and passion for winning made her a wonderful teammate," said National Team teammate Cindy Parlow. "She is one of the few teammates I ever had that could play every field position. As good as she was on the field, she was an even better teammate off the field as she has a contagious love of life and a great sense of humor, and she genuinely cares for everyone."

Julie Foudy

MIDFIELDER
272 CAPS (1988–2004)

Julie Foudy is one of the top midfielders in U.S. history, starting an astounding 260 of her 272 career games. A pioneer for the U.S. Women's National Team and one of fiercest competitors the sport has ever seen, her leadership, work ethic, and honed skills all played a key role in the team's success over her 17-year career.

Known as one of the most outspoken and well-spoken players in U.S. history, her championing of Title IX has made her an iconic figure—to this day she remains a leading figure in the women's sports movement. Foudy was a member of the first four Women's World Cup teams and three Olympic teams, helping the United States win four world

titles during her career. She captained the U.S. team from 2001 through her retirement in 2004.

"I played right next to her in the center of the midfield for club and country and her technical ability was always excellent," said Women's National Team teammate Shannon Boxx. "She ran the midfield, being the quarterback of the team in the way she organized the players with her voice and actions. She was great at keeping possession and dictating the tempo. She determined whether we went fast and direct or kept possession and slowed the ball down. Julie also had a great feel for the game—she was a great passer of the ball."

"One thing I will always remember is how competitive Julie was. She fought for every ball and for her teammates no matter the situation, whether it was in a practice or a game. She absolutely hated to lose and that fire was infectious in whatever team she was on."





Kristine Lilly

MIDFIELDER

352 CAPS (1987–2010)

The legendary Kristine Lilly may forever be known as the Queen of Caps. With her world record for international matches played at 352, it will be a major challenge for another player to equal her mark, which came over the course of four different decades. At the time of her retirement, she held the distinguished honor of being both the youngest and oldest player to score for the USA. She played in a record five Women's World Cup tournaments.

"It's not just the longevity," said Women's National Team teammate Julie Foudy. "For every elite athlete, the challenge is how you can be consistently great. That is what has impressed me the most about Kristine—not just that she's the 'Queen of Caps' but that she was consistently great for so long. She just has an engine in her, with lungs and the capacity to run for miles and miles."

While she is one of the most prolific scorers in women's soccer history, she may be best remembered for a defensive play, heading a ball off the goal line in sudden-death overtime against China in the 1999 FIFA Women's World Cup Final, saving the U.S. team that was inches away from losing the game.

"She was playing the post and it was a corner kick," remembered Foudy. "The ball went over Bri [Scurry], and she was the last one on the line. She headed it off the line with her forehead. I kissed her forehead afterward and said, 'Thank you.' She shrugged and said, 'For what?' And I replied, 'For saving our World Cup.' She said, 'I was just doing my job, Jules.' There was no fluff, and that pretty much sums her up."

She, of course, would nail the crucial third penalty kick during the shootout just a short time

later, giving the USA the lead after Scurry had saved China's third attempt.

The mother of two finally retired in 2010 after an astounding 24 years playing international soccer. Her 28,700 minutes played for the USA are by far the most in U.S. history.

Carli Lloyd

MIDFIELDER

151 CAPS (2005–PRESENT)

Carli Lloyd established herself in the U.S. midfield in 2006 and has gone on to play in two FIFA World Cups and two Olympics, providing the Women's National Team with a number of unforgettable moments along the way.

Lloyd has a world-class ability to shoot from distance—a trademark of her career—and holds the distinction of being the only U.S. player to score the winning goal in two world championship finals. Lloyd accomplished the feat by pounding in the lone goal of the game in overtime against Brazil in the 2008 Olympic gold medal game, and then scoring both goals in a 2–1 victory against Japan in the 2012 Olympic gold medal game in front of more than 80,000 fans at London's famed Wembley Stadium. Her overall excellent performance at the 2012 Olympics, where she scored four times, was crucial in the USA's undefeated run through the tournament to the fourth gold medal in team history.

"Carli Lloyd is the most dedicated teammate I've ever played beside," said Women's National Team teammate Hope Solo. "On and off the field, her only focus is to win and to perform at her highest level. I have looked up to her for many years, and what I respect the most is her continuing drive to not just maintain her level of play, but to improve it. To score the winning goal in two Olympic gold medal matches is a legendary achievement, especially in two games in which the winning margin was razor thin, and to have moments like that in a career is a testament to her amazing work ethic, undying belief in herself, and dedication to making the team better."





Shannon MacMillan

MIDFIELDER
176 CAPS (1993–2005)

A clever and talented attacking player, Shannon MacMillan scored 60 times and assisted on 50 more goals during her Women's National Team career, which included two FIFA Women's World Cups and two Olympics.

She had her best scoring year in 2002, leading the team with 17 goals, but her most famous strike came in the semifinal of the 1996 Olympics against Norway when she scored the "golden goal" that sent the USA to the first-ever gold medal game. MacMillan would also score in the Olympic gold medal match, notching the first goal in the USA's 2–1 victory against China.

Her most memorable assist came on her first touch during

the quarterfinal match of the 1999 FIFA Women's World Cup against Germany. She came into the game in the 66th minute and immediately took a corner kick, serving a superb near-post cross that was headed home by Joy Fawcett for the winning goal.

"She had speed, cleverness, and she was always trying to expose defenders and make them look silly—and she could," said Women's National Team teammate Tiffeny Milbrett. "She always wanted to do something fun with the ball at her feet, whether it was getting by somebody, nutmegging a defender, or scoring goals. She could do all that and also put the ball in the back of the net."

Heather O'Reilly

MIDFIELDER

179 CAPS (2002–PRESENT)

Heather O'Reilly debuted for the U.S. Women's National Team in 2002 at 17 years old, and her tremendous work ethic and relentless competitiveness has distinguished her as an impact player throughout her career. Switching between forward and midfield during the early part of her career, she played major roles in multiple world championships.

She was a key player on the team that won the first FIFA Under-19 Women's World

Cup in 2002, and two years later, in the 2004 Olympics, she scored the game-winning goal in overtime during the semifinal against Germany to send the Americans to the gold-medal game. During the 2008 Olympics, she scored the quickest goal in tournament history (40 seconds against New Zealand), and also scored in the semifinals against Japan. She tallied a spectacular goal against Columbia at the 2011 FIFA Women's World Cup, and,

a year later at the 2012 Olympics, she sent in the cross that Alex Morgan headed home in the last seconds of overtime to defeat Canada in the semifinal.

"She's come up big in clutch situations time and again," said Women's National Team teammate Tobin Heath. "She is the hardest-working player on the team in practice and games and that attitude is contagious. I think that work ethic stems from her selflessness to do her best for the team, which is cool."



Lindsay Tarpley

MENTAL FOCUS

BY JEFFREY J. GOLD

Lindsay Tarpley played numerous coaching positions throughout her career, from forward to defender, from midfielder to flanker, and she played all of them well.

She captained the U.S.A. at the inaugural FIFA Women's World Cup in 1991 and scored the 100th-minute sudden goal to defeat Canada in the championship game in front of more than 80,000 fans in Edmonton.

Still only 20 years old, she led the 1991 U.S. team to win the first of three World Cup titles, all the while in the first of three coaches and then earned stars in the 1993 and 1995 World Cups, including the golden goal from a free-kick strike from the circle helped earn the historic 2-1 semifinal victory against Brazil.

An extremely crafty and smart player with a knack for being in the right place at the right time, Tarpley tallied 32 goals for the U.S.A., including scoring in New Zealand at the 2008 Olympic.

"She worked her way up through the ranks, played at the youth level for the U.S.A., and was one of the most technical players I ever played with," says Tarpley. "National team coach Bruce Arena called her 'the little cannon' because of the way she hit the ball—a player that my coaches called 'the cannon' because of the way she hit the ball."



Aly Wagner

1985
FRANKLIN, MASSACHUSETTS

Wagner was a natural athlete, excelling in soccer, basketball, and volleyball. She was a member of the U.S. Women's National Team from 2003 to 2008. She finished her career as one of the top scorers in U.S. history in combined goals and assists, finishing with 21 goals and 21 assists. She was named the 2007 U.S. Soccer Female Player of the Year.

Wagner was a member of the U.S. Women's National Team from 2003 to 2008. She finished her career as one of the top scorers in U.S. history in combined goals and assists, finishing with 21 goals and 21 assists. She was named the 2007 U.S. Soccer Female Player of the Year. "She was the game in a way that a lot of people can't," said Women's National Team coach Leslie Osborn. "You always wanted her to be on your team because she could bring it down tactically and technically and could do things no one else could. She could deliver the kind of passes on a consistent basis at the age of 18 that other players see their coaches make the game that was very rare."



Tisha Venturini-Hoch

MIDFIELDER
132 CAPS (1992–2000)

One of the most skillful and crafty midfielders in U.S. history, Tisha Venturini-Hoch also had a knack for scoring goals.

She scored three times at the 1995 FIFA Women's World Cup in Sweden, and at the Olympics a year later, she got the USA going with the first goal in a 3–0 opening game victory against Denmark, giving her the first goal in U.S. Olympic history.

A reserve for the 1999 FIFA Women's World Cup team, she famously scored twice in the USA's third group match, a 3–0 victory against Korea DPR, and celebrated her second goal with a roundoff and full backflip that encapsulated the fun and joy that the U.S.

team showed throughout that tournament. It would be her last world championship, but she ended her career as one of the top scoring midfielders in U.S. history, with 44 goals in her 132 caps.

"She was one of the most skillful players I ever played with, and her ability to get out of tight spaces was phenomenal," said Women's National Team teammate Amanda Cromwell. "One thing she was dominant at was winning balls in the air, and that was a big part of her game in the midfield."





Michelle Akers

MIDFIELDER, FORWARD
1969, APRIL 29, 1969

Named by FIFA in 2000 as the Female Player of the Century, Michelle Akers is widely hailed as the greatest player to ever wear the U.S. uniform. A true pioneer of her sport, she scored the first goal in U.S. Women's National Team history in a 2-1 tie with Denmark on August 21, 1985. Had she not battled chronic fatigue syndrome for the last eight years of her career, she surely would have piled up far greater numbers than her 153 career caps and 166 goals.

A powerful runner and goals in her career, she was part of the "Triple-Edged Sword," along with April Heinrichs and Carla Gabarra, that helped secure that first Women's World Cup in China in 1991. Her

10-goal performance during the tournament set a record that had not been broken through 2011.

Akers earned two other major championships during her career, including the first Olympic gold medal for U.S. women, scoring a goal in the 1-0 first-round semifinal win against Norway. Her inspirational play at the 1999 FIFA Women's World Cup helped the USA to their second title, but she should hang up the boots before the Olympics the following year.

"The thing that is so cool with Michelle is the totality of her game," said former Women's National Team head coach Anson Dorrance. "Even now, I think when you look at

the gentleman of the game, the best player of all time, she would be a part of that list. Any player who had a pack would come to the same conclusion, that she is the most complete player of all time. She was a soccer player without a weakness. She was dominant in the air. She could beat you with the dribble, she played well with both legs, she had agility, she was a great leader. If you were to compare her to the best players in the game, you can find similarities in their games, but not with Michelle Akers. I don't care how long people will play this game—there are few players who will have that totality."





Carin Jennings Gabarra

FORWARD

117 CAPS (1987–96)

One of just two Americans to win the Golden Ball as the best player at a FIFA Women's World Cup, Jennings Gabarra was a devastating attacker and goal scorer with a unique dribbling style that flummoxed defenders during her 10 years on the Women's National Team.

At the 1991 Women's World Cup, she famously partnered with Michelle Akers and April Heinrichs on the forward line and scored an historic hat trick against Germany in the World Cup semifinal, a 5–2 victory for the Americans.

She would play for the USA at the 1995 FIFA World Cup and won a gold medal at the 1996 Olympics. She retired as one of the best goal scorers in U.S. history with 53 in just 117 games.

“What was so interesting about Carin as a player, and especially at the time, was that she was one of the best at staying under control at high speed with the ball at her feet,” said Women's National Team teammate April Heinrichs. “She was one of the best in the world. We used to call her ‘Gumby’ or

‘Crazy Legs’ because she had these pigeon-toed feet, but she had immaculate touch with the ball and the ability to dribble at people. Defenders had no idea what she was going to do, and she could just beat people left and right. She was one of the best players in the world and one of the most humble about it. Certainly on that front line [of Jennings Gabarra, Akers, and Heinrichs], we were all humbled by each other at times. Carin was a great team member and a great teammate.”



Mia Hamm

FORWARD
1971-1985 (1987-2003)

At a height that once was admired for other top-tier players, many reported her towering and powerful striking prowess. She kept the United States women's soccer team's "look-alike" player in the world and certainly the face of the sport during the latter part of her 16-year international career. With her combination of dynamic playing style, otherworldly goal-scoring ability, and competitive spirit, she truly redefined the sport as it existed in the United States and brought the sport into the mainstream.

She was the youngest player to debut for the U.S. team when she was 15, and was a member of the USA's 1991 FIFA Women's World Cup team at the age of 19. She played in four FIFA Women's World Cup tournaments and three Olympic Games, winning ten goal medals and finishing two World Cup trophies.

She was also a forward on the United States men's national team, and a U.S. national team captain. She was a member of the United States national team for 16 years, and was a member of the United States national team for 16 years.

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April Heinrichs

FORWARD
46 CAPS (1986–91)

Her career was relatively short, but her impact on the U.S. Women's National Team is still felt to this day. April Heinrichs debuted for the U.S. team in 1986 and would go on to captain the 1991 FIFA Women's World Cup, becoming the first woman to lift a FIFA World Cup trophy.

A member of the famed "Triple-Edged Sword" on the forward line at that first World Cup in China along with Michelle Akers and Carin Gabarra, she scored twice in the USA's 5–2 semifinal victory against Germany (Gabarra bagged the other three) and finished her career with 35

goals in 45 games, retiring after the tournament.

"I think the defining characteristic for April is her drive," said Gabarra. "She wanted to get better, wanted her team to get better, and wanted those around her to get better. She would never settle for where she was. She continued to raise the bar for herself and her teammates, and being in the leadership role that she was, she always made us continue to climb the ladder."

Tiffany Milbrett

FORWARD

204 CAPS (1991–2005)

The fourth player in U.S. history to score 100 or more goals, Tiffany “Millie” Milbrett was one of the world’s most dangerous and entertaining strikers during her 15-year career.

Although just five-foot-two, Milbrett had world-class speed, a dynamic playing style, and a knack for scoring spectacular goals. She would make a major impact at the 1996 Olympics, scoring two goals, including the game-winner in the Olympic

gold medal match, a 2–1 victory against China. A member of two Olympics and three Women’s World Cups, Milbrett scored one of the most dramatic goals in U.S. history. In the dying seconds of the 2000 Olympic gold medal game, she headed home a Mia Hamm cross to tie the match at 2–2 (she also scored the first goal of the game), but the USA would fall to Norway on a controversial “golden goal.”

“Millie was a little fireball,”

said Women’s National Team teammate Kristine Lilly. “She was so fast with the ball—both creative and unpredictable. She was a great soccer player. She scored some great goals. It was always fun to see her when she had the ball at her feet, because she could always make something happen.”





Alex Morgan

FORWARD
58 CAPS (2010–PRESENT)

Early in her career, Alex Morgan showed she could be a goal-scoring force at the international level, notching 32 scores in her first 50 caps, the third-best total in Women's National Team history.

She first showcased her scoring prowess with the U.S. Under-20 Women's National Team, scoring the game-winning goal in the final of the 2008 FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup in Chile.

She burst onto the international scene at the 2011 FIFA

Women's World Cup, coming off the bench to score in the semifinal against France, and then became the first U.S. player to get a goal and an assist in a Women's World Cup Final. At the 2012 Olympics, she scored twice against France in the 4–2 opening game victory and then in the semifinal against Canada, heading in the dramatic overtime game winner with just seconds left in the third minute of stoppage time. It was the latest goal ever scored in FIFA history.

"She's a young up-and-comer, and she's going to take over," said Women's National Team teammate Abby Wambach. "It gives me a lot of relief, actually, because when I eventually retire, I know the team will be in good hands."



Cindy Parlow

FORWARD

168 CAPS (1996–2004)

At five-foot-eleven and tremendously skillful and tough, Cindy Parlow was a lethal player in the penalty area and scored 75 goals during a nine-year international career.

She was the youngest player on the USA's 1996 Olympic gold medal team and one of the youngest on the historic 1999 Women's World Cup squad. She would play in three Olympic Games—the last in 2004—and two Women's World Cup tournaments, in 1999 and 2003.

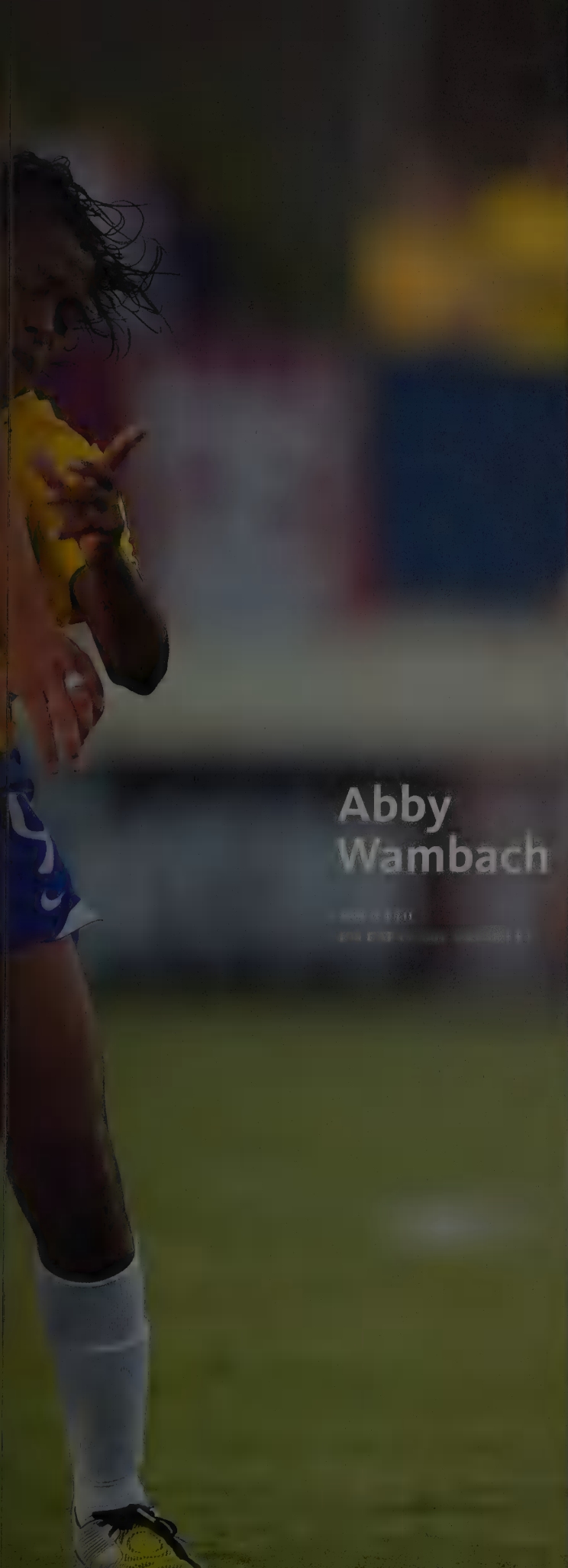
One of the best headers of

the ball during her era, she memorably scored in the 1999 FIFA Women's World Cup semifinal against Brazil, heading home a cross that had skipped off the hands of the goalkeeper.

"Cindy was a player that I very much looked up to when I first got on the team," said Women's National Team teammate Abby Wambach. "She was a starter and the big target forward and her touch was amazing, one of the best in the world. She got balls drilled into her yet was

able to bring them down with grace and athleticism. She had those pigeon feet and played the ball with the outside of her feet so often and so well that she made scoring look easy."





Abby Wambach

BY JEFFREY M. HARRIS
PHOTOGRAPH BY JEFFREY M. HARRIS

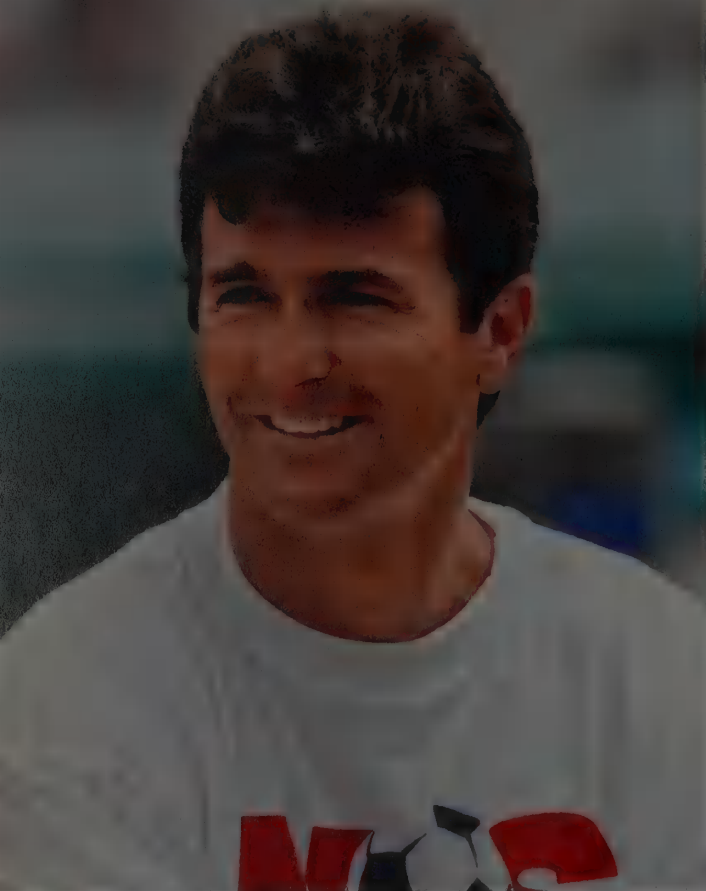
Abby Wambach is without a doubt one of the best big-game players in U.S. history. With her size, strength, and an almost supernatural mental toughness, Wambach's winning mentality has made her a tremendous role model for her teammates and fans throughout the world.

She led the U.S. team in scoring during three Women's World Cups and two Olympic tournaments as she became the USA's all-time leading scorer in both events. One of the most prolific goal scorers in the history of women's soccer, she burst onto the world's stage at the 2004 Olympics, where she scored the winning goal in overtime during the gold medal match, heading home a corner kick from Kristine Lilly.

Wambach would miss the 2008 Olympics with a broken leg, but she led the team on an inspirational run to the 2012 gold medal, scoring in the first five games of the tournament—a feat never before accomplished—and earned her second gold medal after the USA's 2-1 victory against Japan. Wambach scored one of the most famous goals in women's soccer

history when she headed home Megan Rapinoe's cross in the 122nd minute of the 2011 FIFA Women's World Cup quarterfinal to tie the game 2-2 and sent the game into penalty kicks, where the USA eventually prevailed. The goal, with just seconds left in stoppage time of the second overtime period, was at the time the latest goal in a game in FIFA World Cup history.

"Not just her physical gifts but also her psychological approach to the game makes her special," said Women's National Team teammate Mia Hamm. "At the international level, players are extremely talented and the game is so much faster than it is in college. You have to go after it and be psychologically strong to compete, and you saw that with Abby. You have to be able to find ways to win and figure out defenses and have a willingness to learn and listen. She has all those traits. Her primary goal every time she steps on the field is to try to find a way to help her team win."



Anson Dorrance

HEAD COACH
1986-94

The second coach in U.S. Women's National Team history, Anson Dorrance can be credited with starting the tradition of winning. He took a talented group of young players onto the world's stage for the first time at the 1991 FIFA Women's World Cup and firmly established that the United States would be a major player in women's international soccer for years to come.

With women's soccer still in its infancy in the early 1990s, Dorrance molded a team that would compete with European nations that had been playing international soccer since the mid-1970s, and guided his team to six wins in China in 1991 and an historic first Women's World Cup title.

"He enabled us to be the best players, individually, that we could be, but also helped us understand the importance of the team and how, by practicing mutual respect, we could gain a level of play and of

trust that would take us a long way," said Women's National Team forward Mia Hamm. "I remembered really loving that. He structured practice that way, too. In the beginning of the week, it was all about individual work and how you make an impact and factor into winning, whether it was one-to-one or other small games. As we got closer to the end of the week, the games got larger, eventually 11 to 11, and it was about the team and how we played for one another."

He would turn the reins over to Tony DiCicco before the next Women's World Cup, but the job had been done to give the USA a foundation on which to build a program that would become the most successful in the world. Dorrance went on to become one of the most successful coaches in college sports, leading the University of North Carolina to more than 20 NCAA Women's Soccer Championships.





April Heinrichs

HEAD COACH
2000-04

April Heinrichs, the first former U.S. player to coach the National Team, was the captain of the 1991 FIFA Women's World Cup winners and is one of the few people to have both played and coached in a Women's World Cup.

During her tenure, Heinrichs coached the most games in U.S. Women's National Team history and led the U.S. team to a gold medal at the 2004 Olympics in Athens, Greece, a silver medal at the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, Australia, and a bronze medal at the 2003 FIFA Women's World Cup in the United States. The USA also won three Algarve Cup tournaments with Heinrichs at the helm, including the team's

first-ever triumph at the annual Portugal event in 2000.

Several young players earned their first caps for the U.S. team under Heinrichs, including Hope Solo, Lori Chalupny, Lindsay Tarpley, Shannon Boxx, Heather O'Reilly, and Abby Wambach.



Greg Ryan

HEAD COACH
2005-07

Greg Ryan was head coach of the U.S. Women's National Team from 2005 to 2007, during which time he oversaw a remarkable run of just one loss in 55 matches. Ryan's winning percentage of .900 is the best in U.S. history, and the team went undefeated in 2005 (8-0-1) and 2006 (18-0-4). The one game lost in his reign in 2007 was during the semifinal of the FIFA Women's World Cup, a 4-0 setback to Brazil.

His teams did not allow a goal in 2005 and pitched 35 shutouts in his 55 matches as head coach. In fact, the USA allowed more than one goal just


three times during his tenure. The U.S. team scored 144 goals and allowed just 27 total during Ryan's three years as head coach and won the Algarve Cup in Portugal twice, the Four Nations Tournament in China twice, the Peace Queen Cup in South Korea, and the CONCACAF Women's World Cup qualifying tournament.









A photograph of three soccer players from behind, walking away on a grass field at night. They are wearing white jerseys with dark numbers (6, 7, and 8) and dark shorts. The player on the right has "USA" on his white socks. In the background, other players in red jerseys and a referee in a blue shirt are visible under stadium lights.

DEVELOPMENT

In its formative years, American soccer was centered around the ethnic clubs in the northeastern textile centers, and the churches and community centers of the Midwest.

**Forgotten Founder:
Thomas Cahill**

PERHAPS NOT ENTIRELY forgotten but surely lacking in appropriate acclaim for his role in American soccer development is Thomas W. Cahill. Born in 1863, he was present at all the significant mileposts of the game, though when he died in 1951, he must have felt that soccer would never occupy the prominent spot he envisioned.

President Manning had declared that it was his intention "to make soccer the national pastime of the winter in this country," and it was Cahill to whom he turned for action. Cahill's main job was as a New York representative for A. G. Spalding, the St. Louis sporting goods company, but his work as secretary of the fledgling soccer body is what made his name. Despite the normal growing pains for a young organization, Cahill set about his task with his trademark assiduous approach,

becoming known to some as the "Father of American Soccer."

During his 50-year career in soccer, he was the leading organizer of the 1909 American tour of the Pilgrims, an English amateur team that left a huge impression on American crowds, and managed the first three American teams to make overseas tours: the National Team in 1916, Bethlehem Steel in 1919, and a St. Louis All-Star team in 1920. He was also among the chief organizers of the first American Soccer League in 1921.



Joe Barriskill served for 28 years as the Federation's General Secretary and was an influential voice in the game for more than four decades.



The Game Spreads

THE NET EFFECT OF THIS LEADERSHIP from nearly a century ago was that soccer quietly and indomitably began spreading westward. So many Americans were drawn to the game that even the Depression and World War II barely slowed the development of soccer. From the early meccas, the game permeated to the rest of the country and to small towns as Americans migrated from the northern cities to the Sunbelt suburbs. The game did not just move on; it spilled over.

New regional leagues sprang up; all through the 1930s and 1940s international teams toured regularly. The Open Cup thrived, and the American Soccer League, now in its second form, spawned many new pro teams. Coaches banded together to form the National Soccer Coaches Association, and, in the 1950s, the U.S. National Team defeated vaunted England at the World Cup, and a Hall of Fame formed.

In retrospect, it seems inevitable the sport would have grown during the mid-20th century, but in fact it was only through sheer determination of men like Joe Barriskill, who was president and then executive secretary of the U.S. Soccer Federation for more than a quarter century, starting in the 1930s, that everything stayed on track. With a blustery management style, Barriskill frequently paid early-era bills out of his own pocket and established an office in Manhattan.

As the century passed the halfway mark, however, the ingredients so carefully prepared, starting in 1913, began to boil. There were no international matches from 1937 to 1947, since wartime had put a stop to normal life, but the emergence of an American team to play at the 1948 Olympics and the 1950 World Cup signaled a new desire to challenge the world at the world's game. The college game gained ground, too, with the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) holding a national championship in the late 1950s. General Secretary Kurt Lamm provided a steady hand at the helm for many

years, managing the now-sprawling sport from offices in the Empire State Building in Manhattan. Lamm and his skeleton staff had their hands full, but everything was done with a gentle touch, a smile, and a sense of the inevitability of soccer's popularity.

The college game drew tens of thousands of students into the sport. Collegiate men's soccer had just 45 participating schools in 1945, but by 1954 that number had increased to 125, and by the mid-1960s, it was 350. At the national championship tournament in 1959, St. Louis University took home five of the first seven titles. Between the 1960s and the 1980s, powerhouses such as Indiana, San Francisco, and Virginia developed their game, and by the early 1980s, women joined the collegiate fray. The famed North Carolina women's team won 21 of the first 31 women's NCAA titles—a powerful symbol of the emergence of women's sports. As U.S. Soccer reaches its centennial year, there are more than 700 college and university field teams, both men's and women's.

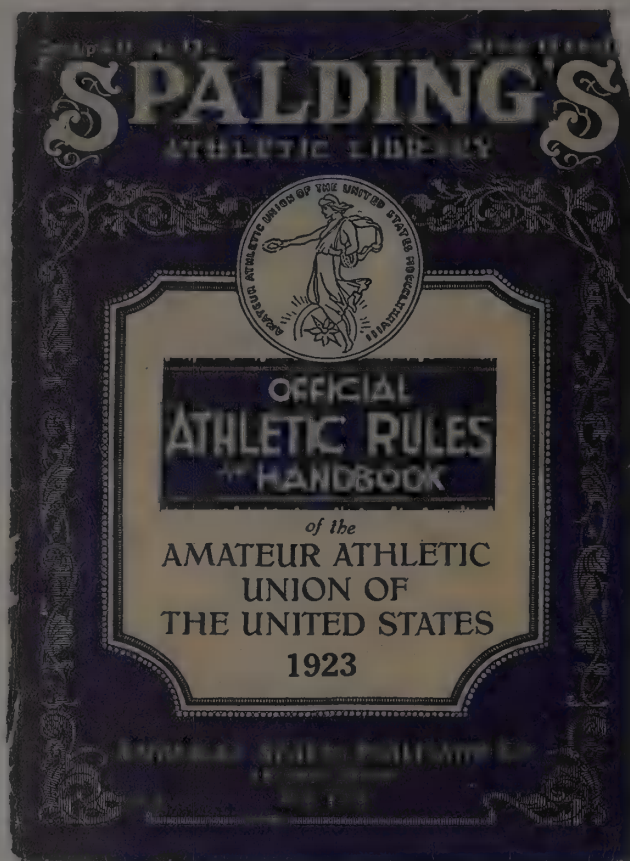


The American Soccer League was a premier league in the first half of the 20th century, providing competition for stars such as Aldo T. (Buff) Donelli (above).



College soccer has produced some memorable dynasties, such as the University of Virginia men's team of the 1990s and the University of North Carolina women's teams, which have won 21 NCAA titles.





President Werner Fricker (above, right) and General Secretary Kurt Lamm collaborated closely for many years.

**The Federation's Offices:
From Spalding's to the
Empire State Building to
Soccer House**

SINCE THE U.S. SOCCER FEDERATION (USSF) was established in New York, perhaps it isn't surprising that for much of its first 75 years, it conducted the business of soccer out of New York City offices. For many of those years there wasn't any office dedicated solely to Federation affairs. At the outset, Thomas W. Cahill, the first secretary, used his employer's office space at 126 Nassau Street in Lower Manhattan to manage the early business of soccer. Cahill was an equipment representative for A. G. Spalding, the large manufacturer of sporting goods from bicycle wheels to basketballs.

Subsequently, the offices migrated uptown in the mid-1920s to space in the Cornish Arms Hotel on the West Side and, by 1932, the USSF had quarters at 311-323 West 32nd Street in Midtown. When Joe Barriskill assumed command of the Federation in the mid-1930s, first as

president and then for 28 years as secretary, he moved the Federation into his own employer's offices at 320 Fifth Avenue. Barriskill, a native of Ireland, worked for Tuttle Brothers, a manufacturer of Irish linens, and for many years he worked in the mornings for Tuttle and in the afternoons for USFA, as it was known then.

In 1968, the Federation achieved some real prominence by moving its headquarters to Suite 4010 at 350 Fifth Avenue, otherwise known as the Empire State Building. Federation president James McGuire was an executive and director of Cushman & Wakefield, one of New York City's largest property management firms, and the Empire State Building was one of its significant clients. So, with McGuire's help, Federation general secretary Kurt Lamm and his staff of three took up residence on the fortieth floor for nearly 20 years.

In the mid-1980s, though, the Federation moved its offices to the Viscount Hotel near Kennedy Airport; it made international travel easy and was the result of a generous rental arrangement. But, by 1987, under General Secretary Keith Walker, soccer's administrators moved to a space within the U.S. Olympic complex in Colorado Springs, a location they enjoyed until late 1991, when the city of Chicago helped make today's Soccer House a reality. From its home in the Empire State Building and its four-person staff, today's U.S. Soccer has grown to fill Soccer House with nearly 60 employees guiding the sport in the 21st century.

Soccer House

WHEN ALAN ROTHENBERG and Hank Steinbrecher became the U.S. Soccer Federation president and general secretary, respectively, one of their first orders of business was to find a permanent home for the sport. Soccer administrators had occupied many sites in New York and Colorado, and the time had come for the sport's expanding staff and needs to be housed in a dedicated and fully equipped location. Chicago was the spot, and Soccer House came into being in 1991.

Steinbrecher was instrumental in making the dream come true: "There was a healthy competition among Chicago, Atlanta, Dallas, and Kansas City to see which one would become soccer's home. It was a long and difficult process, but looking at the bottom line, Chicago clearly came out on

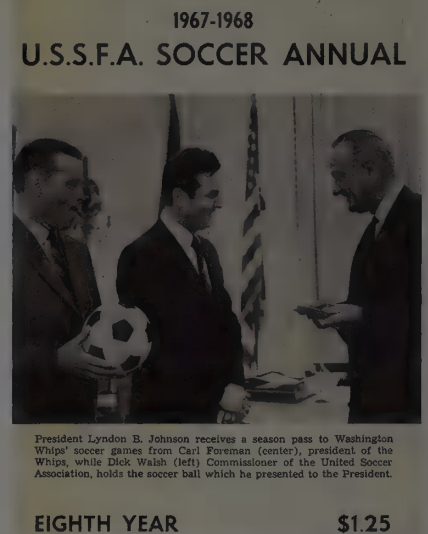
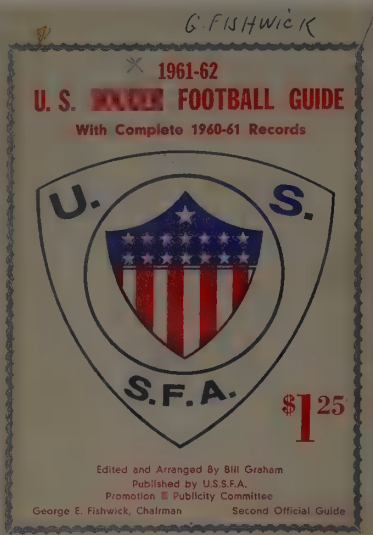
top. Through the good efforts of Mayor Richard M. Daley, we were able to move into two historic properties, Kimball House and the Coleman-Ames House, both magnificent 19th-century homes on South Prairie Avenue that gave us the space we needed and the professional setting, as the sport was surging forward with so many activities. The Chicago Architectural Association was instrumental in helping us locate such wonderful properties and such fitting headquarters through the years when we have welcomed FIFA for World Cups, the Confederation of North, Central American, and Caribbean Association Football (CONCACAF) for Gold Cups, and the daily, sometimes frantic pace of the world's game.

"To look at the Soccer House neighborhood now, with all its renovations and vitality, makes

me especially proud that we put our roots down in that spot. Chicago has countless great communities, and the Soccer House district is one of them. I know that when we established Soccer House, it sent an undeniable message to the fans, the athletes, and the marketing community that soccer was on the move. To be in a city like Chicago, a center of media and marketing, has helped the sport immeasurably through the years."

General Secretary Hank Steinbrecher (below, left) was instrumental in the establishment of Chicago's Soccer House—otherwise known as Kimball House, which would become the U.S. Soccer Federation headquarters.





Entrepreneurs and The NASL

WITH THE 1960s CAME A PROFUSION of new leagues, four in just that one decade, as American soccer decisively started on the path to the modern-era game with emphases on high-quality league play, player development, first-class venues, and sound finances.

The United States has always been an entrepreneurial hotbed, and soccer profited from that mindset in the 1960s when William Cox established the International Soccer League in 1960. Based in media-rich New York, it was formed of international squads representing various American cities, and as a league it showed that regularly scheduled soccer events in big stadiums could draw big crowds. The exuberant Cox couldn't keep it going for more than five years, but other optimists waited in the wings. In 1967, a year after the World Cup Final had been shown on TV for the first time in the United States to a surprisingly large audience, not one but two leagues vied for attention. The United Soccer Association and the National Professional Soccer League took to the stage for only one season, but their short tenure shouldn't be seen as a failure.

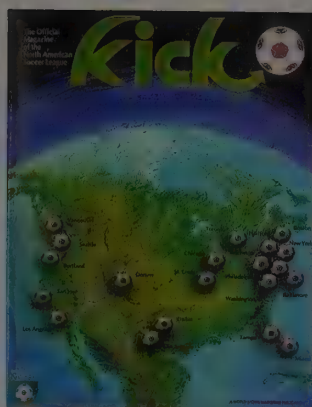
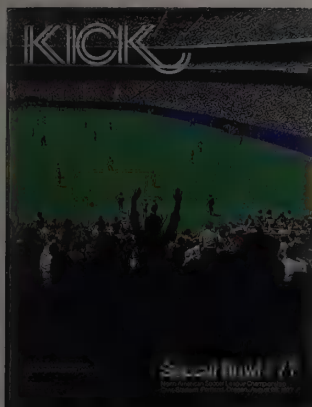
In fact, the product of their 1967 experiment was what could arguably be the most important touchstone of 20th-century American soccer—the birth of the North American Soccer League (NASL) in 1968. Ultimately embracing teams from all corners of the nation and several in Canada, the NASL was just the accelerant the sport needed. Soccer already had leadership, long-standing leagues, and a deep fan base within various communities, and it had been slowly developing American players; but the NASL's brash promotional style and star quality pushed soccer onto the front pages.

It attracted visionary investors such as Lamar Hunt, Jack Kent Cooke, Madison Square Garden Corporation, Lee Stern, Warner Communications, and countless others who saw the game, loved the game, and ensured its future. Executives such as Commissioner Phil Woosnam and Clive Toye provided the expertise and knowledge to get the league running securely (overcoming their own occasional

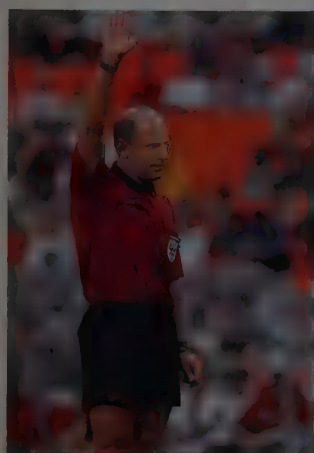
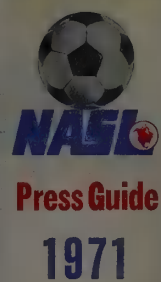
doubts); player signings such as legends George Best, Bobby Moore, Pelé, Franz Beckenbauer, Johan Cruyff, Carlos Alberto, and Giorgio Chinaglia provided star appeal that finally pushed the sport across the threshold of the average American home. And the star power wasn't confined within the lines. Dr. Henry Kissinger, former secretary of state, became the honorary chairman of the NASL and, for decades to come, added his expertise and diplomacy to the American soccer experience.

It wasn't just the NASL's lively competition on the field that turned soccer's page once and for all. Surely the NASL's requirement that all teams have two North Americans (later three) on the field at all times jump-started American player development systems. The league spawned a youth participation boom that brought millions of young people and their parents into the game and ignited a fury for soccer that continues unabated today. Youngsters across the country aspired to soccer, and dozens of U.S. National Team players first got the soccer bug while watching NASL matches during their childhood.

And it wasn't just players who aspired and achieved. Referees such as Henry Landauer, Toros Kibritjian, Alfred Kleinaitis, Angelo Bratsis, Gino D'Ippolito, Dave Socha, and Vincent Mauro handled the big matches, league and international, with aplomb and talent. Their pioneering work put down the roots for the refereeing corps that followed, including Esse Baharmast and Brian Hall, both of which had remarkable careers at the highest levels of the game. In the women's ranks, Sandra Serafini, Sandra Hunt, and Keri Seitz have each made their mark. Today's referees continue to develop their skills alongside the players, handling thousands of high-level matches every year and regularly working FIFA events.



The NASL spread soccer's message to all corners of America, while teams such as the Cosmos ignited interest in developing all aspects of the game. Officials such as Brian Hall, Esse Baharmast, and Kari Seitz (below, left to right) have gone on to carry American refereeing into international competition.





From the mid-1970s onward, the sport no longer relied on international teams for glamour. The missionary zeal of the athletes and clubs of the era carried the message to every Boys' Club, every playground, every gymnasium in America, widening soccer's footprint. U.S. Youth Soccer saw its membership grow exponentially. The American Youth Soccer Organization grew from regional to national. Coaches Walt Chyzowych, Dettmar Cramer, Al Miller, Ron Newman, and Manny Schellscheidt made sure opportunities existed for coaches and players to polish their game at all levels. The coaches started enormously influential coaching schools, which added expertise and knowledge to the American coaching scene. Indoor leagues attracted fans. Coast to coast, town administrators and recreation directors were convinced that soccer had to become part of their citizens' lives, and it did. The Soccer Mom was born.

Then came a 1972 event of immense national sports significance—the passage of Title IX. The original statute makes no specific mention of the sport, but what an impact it had on soccer. Women's teams had been in evidence for years—St. Louis had a women's league in 1951, for instance, and a team of English women had toured the States in 1922—but Title IX unleashed the power of women in sports and would put the United States atop the women's game within less than a generation, where the U.S. women's teams remain today.

Nearly concurrent was U.S. Youth Soccer's Olympic Development Program (ODP), which debuted in 1977 with the mission to identify a pool of players from the youth ranks to form the nucleus of future National Teams. Today, its four regions conduct camps and training programs for young players of all age groups, and ODP continues to serve as a pipeline for the National Team programs.

The Federation took the lead in improving American soccer coaching through manuals and teaching aids. U.S. Soccer coaching courses were fully subscribed, and licensed coaches took their skills to teams of all ages across the nation. (Above) One of the first U.S. Soccer coaching schools.

UNITED STATES
SOCCER
FOOTBALL
ASSOCIATION



COACHES MANUAL



THOMAS C. Cramer

1970

Published by the U.S. Soccer Federation, Inc.



Additional Programs

THE U.S. SOCCER FEDERATION handles the development and promotion of its senior Men's and Women's National Teams as well as numerous Youth National Teams, but the reach and responsibility runs even deeper to different variations of the game that are gaining increased popularity worldwide.

U.S. Soccer has National Teams for Futsal, Beach Soccer, and Paralympic Soccer, while

Power Soccer, the first competitive team sport designed and developed specifically for power wheelchair users, is a member of the Federation.

Futsal has the most history among the competitions—the U.S. Futsal Team took impressive third and second place finishes in 1989 and 1991, respectively—but Beach, Paralympic, and Power Soccer have grown exponentially in

competitive level and media coverage over the years. Futsal is also playing an increasingly important role in the technical development of young players, so much so that it has become part of the curriculum for the U.S. Soccer Development Academy.

The 2012 U.S. Paralympic Team: (Front row, left to right) Rene Renteria, Adam Ballou, Chad Jones, Keith Johnson, Gavin Sibayan, Marthell Vazquez; (Back row, left to right) Jerreme Wade, Alex Hendricks, Josh McKinney, Chris Ahrens, Bryce Boarman, Tyler Bennett.



The 1992 U.S. Futsal Team: (Front row, left to right) Jim Gabarra, Ted Eck, Jeff Agoos, Terry Woodberry, Chico Borja; (Back row, left to right) Coach John Kowalski, George Fernandez, Victor Nogueira, Dave Ervine, Fernando Clavijo, Andy Schmietzer, P.J. Johns, Mike Windischmann, Coach Ron Newman.



IF THERE IS ANY ONE PERSON who left an indelible mark on American soccer, it is Lamar Hunt. He did the same for professional football, basketball, and tennis, too, but the Texan's love of and dedication to the growth of soccer was truly visionary. When fans, players, sponsors, or administrators look at the twenty-first century American game and admire its vigorous league play, financial stability, and soccer-specific stadiums, they are really looking at the achievements of Lamar Hunt.

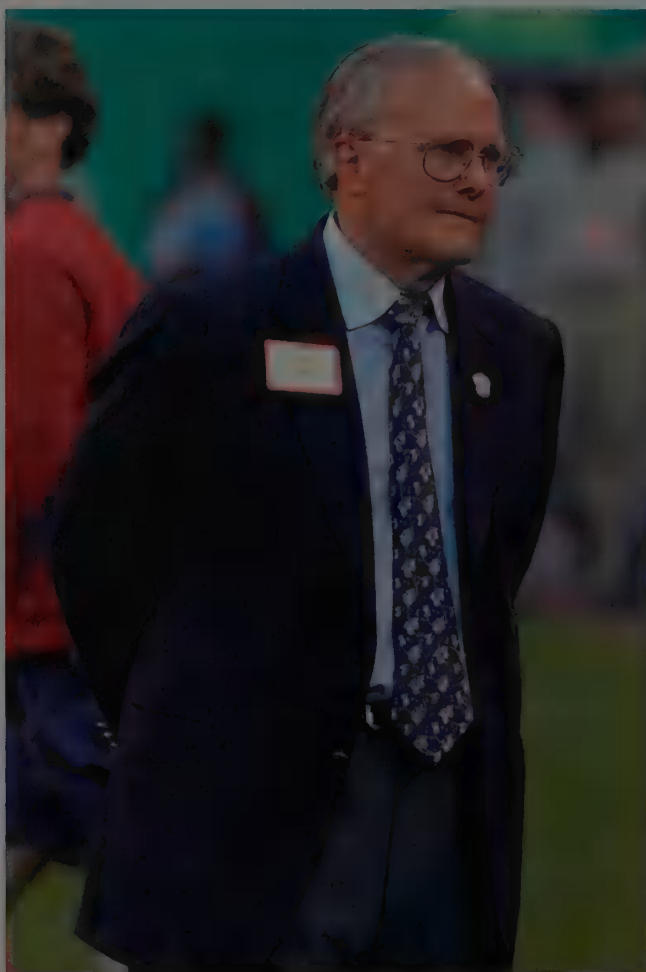
"Lamar Hunt was one of the great leaders in USA soccer history and without him we certainly wouldn't be where we are today," said U.S. Soccer President Sunil Gulati. "He was a powerful influence on our game's growth for decades and was an integral part in virtually every new initiative we launched, whether it was the start of a professional league or building soccer-specific stadiums. Lamar really loved the game of soccer. Many people know of him because of his NFL ties, but his soccer dedication

was second to none. Who else do we know who attended every World Cup since 1970, usually anonymously, soaking it all in from the stands? He was there when the first major leagues sprang up in the late 1960s, he was there when we bid for the 1994 World Cup, and he was there when Major League Soccer was born. I know the athletes who played for him always spoke very highly of Mr. Hunt. He was a true pioneer."

Hunt was hooked while watching the 1966 World Cup Final and getting caught up in the drama of the extra-time outcome. Despite his stature in the sports community, Hunt and his family frequently attended World Cups and Olympic Games in anonymity, shunning the luxury suites of the modern era and sitting in the stands with the fans. He was the founder of the American Football League and steered that renegade group to the historic NFL merger; when soccer burst into widespread view in the 1960s, he joined that enterprise as a co-founder and started the Dallas Tornado.

Hunt and his family remained instrumental in soccer's inexorable rise, even through the demise of the North American Soccer League. He provided his expertise to the 1994 World Cup effort, and when Major League Soccer (MLS) was being formed, he again stepped up as a charter investor and founder of the Columbus Crew and the Kansas City Wiz. As MLS matured and the single-entity concept underwent some shifts, Hunt purchased a third team, the Dallas Burn. His involvement was seemingly endless. The concept of soccer-specific stadiums was a key point among the initial investors in MLS, and Hunt wasted no time. From the first day of his involvement, he started planning the Columbus Crew Stadium, which opened in 1999, and which provided the template for the soccer-specific model in which MLS thrives today.

In a fitting tribute, the U.S. Open Cup, the oldest cup competition in American soccer, was named after him in 1999.



Pioneering soccer investors Lamar Hunt (left) and Philip Anschutz (facing page, left, with MLS Commissioner Don Garber).



Philip Anschutz

AMERICAN BUSINESS HAS often seen one person who has transformed an industry, people such as Henry Ford and Bill Gates. For the current era of professional soccer, that man is Philip Anschutz.

Among the first people contacted by Alan Rothenberg, when Major League Soccer was being established, Anschutz saw the magic of soccer and believed in the model before many others came on board. He is a visionary businessman and entrepreneur, who came to the MLS table determined to make the league succeed. He and the Anschutz Entertainment Group were the original investor-operators of several teams at the outset, and he has been a leader in the devel-

opment of soccer-specific stadiums that now dot the country. He is a passionate sportsman, and within his portfolio are also overseas sports teams, arenas, and stadiums.

It has been said that Anschutz is a man who can see around corners, unlocking hidden future value. He certainly had a clear vision for soccer, and the sport is stronger for it.

The ~~Lamar~~ Hunt Open Cup

RENAMED IN 1999 for Lamar Hunt, one of the luminaries of American soccer development, the Open Cup is among the oldest such competitions in the soccer world. Dating from 1914, it has been held every year since that time. When the USFA was founded in 1913, one of the prime goals of President Randolph Manning and Secretary Thomas W. Cahill was to establish a truly national cup competition, modeled after England's FA Cup tournament. One of the USFA's forerunners, the American Football Association, had administered an American Cup for many years, but the competition was primarily regional in nature and did not fit with the new governing body's vision for a nationwide event open to all amateurs and professionals.

During the early years, teams sponsored by industry in the East's urban centers dominated the competition. Bethlehem Steel of the National Association Foot Ball League won four

Open Cup titles between 1915 and 1919 and would add a fifth in 1926. Similarly, the American Soccer League's Fall River Marksmen of Massachusetts won four titles between 1924 and 1931, and after changing their name to the New Bedford Whalers in 1932, won a fifth. The only other five-time champs were Los Angeles Maccabee S.C. (1973-75, 1977, 1978, 1981). The East dominated the Cup for the first decades, but by the 1950s, as soccer grew across the whole continent, teams from the West and Midwest began to win the title. Teams outside the Northeast won half the titles until Major League Soccer was established in 1996 and began to dominate.

Major League Soccer teams have engraved their names on the Dewar Cup regularly since 1996, winning 16 of the last 17 competitions. The Chicago Fire lead the parade with four Open Cup titles, while Seattle, under coach Sigi Schmid, has won three

of the last four in front of wildly enthusiastic crowds. In the first 100 years of the tournament, the only non-MLS club to break into the Open Cup winner's circle since 1996 was the Rochester Raging Rhinos of the A-League. The Rhinos, starting in the tournament's second round, defeated four MLS teams on the way to their 1999 championship, which they took home by defeating Colorado 2-0 in a match staged in Columbus, Ohio.

WHEN IT ALL STARTED: THE FIRST NATIONAL CHALLENGE CUP FINAL

Known then as the National Challenge Cup, the first year's tournament attracted 40 teams, including such competitors as the Cowboy Club of New Jersey, Presbyterian F.C. of Connecticut, and the Young Men's Catholic Total Abstinence Society F.C. of Massachusetts. There were still lingering issues between the two existing leagues (the

President of the U.S. Soccer Federation James McGuire (far left) and General Secretary Kurt Lamm (third from left) admire the National Challenge Cup trophy in the early 1970s.



American Football Association and the National Association Foot Ball League [NAFBL] and the new governing body, and only one of the NAFBL teams, Brooklyn Field Club, entered the competition.

The tournament kicked off on November 2, 1913, with teams coming from New England, New York, Pennsylvania, Chicago, and Detroit. Given those locations, it is no surprise the tournament was beset with heavy winter weather at many different stages along the way. Brooklyn played its quarterfinal match against Yonkers on a pitch "which would have been more suitable for ice hockey," said one observer. Another match between Yonkers and Fulton F.C. produced teams "floundering around in a sea of mud."

As the tournament slogged forward, Brooklyn Field Club and Brooklyn Celtic emerged as finalists, meeting on a fine May 16 afternoon in Pawtucket, Rhode Island. Celtic had put

together several fine years of competition in the New York Amateur Association Football League, moving up from the second division to first division champions. But on the day, its borough competitor was the better team, winning 2-1. James Ford, the right-side forward, won the game with a header in the 85th minute to put Brooklyn Field Club's name on the Dewar Cup as the first champions—and to complete a league and cup double, since the team had gone undefeated in the NAFBL that season.

THE DEWAR CUP, THE U.S. OPEN CUP TROPHY

The oldest trophy in United States team sports history, the Dewar Challenge Trophy was originally donated to the American Amateur Foot Ball Association (AAFA) in 1912 by Sir Thomas Dewar. The trophy, manufactured by Read and Barton in England and an

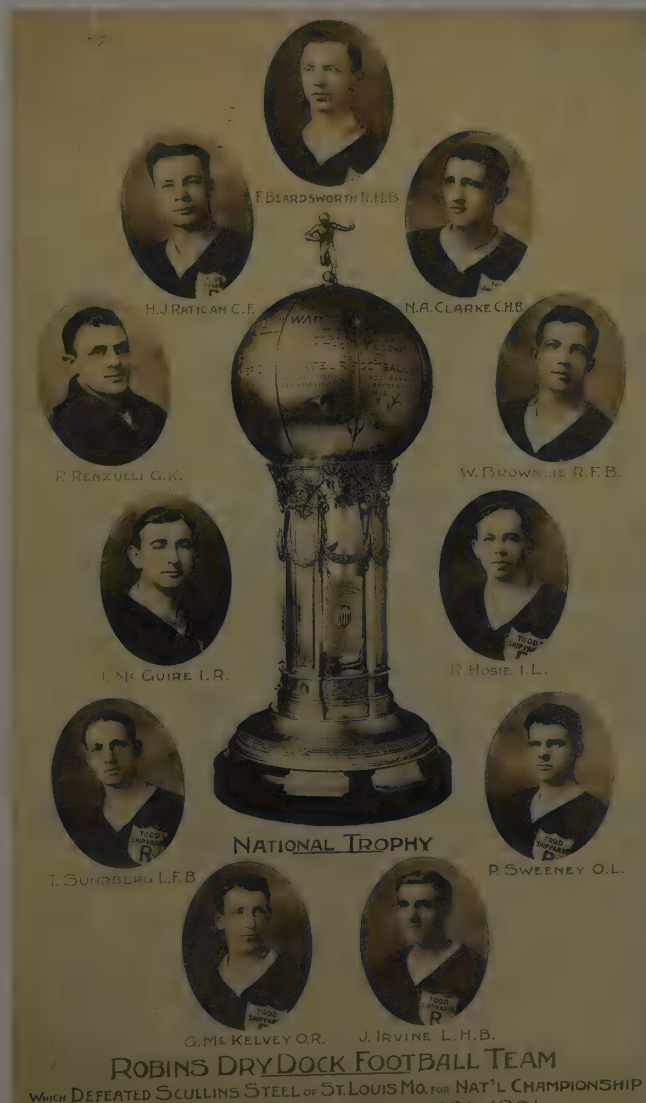
outstanding example of the silversmith's art, was purchased for \$500 and given in hope of promoting soccer in the United States and in the name of Anglo-American friendship.

Yonkers F.C. was the first winner of the trophy in 1912 under the aegis of the AAFA. A year later, however, Sir Thomas granted permission for the solid-silver trophy to become the property of the newly founded United States Foot Ball Association and to be awarded to the winner of the new National Challenge Cup competition, which would later become the U.S. Open Cup.

The trophy was retired in 1979 but was refurbished by the United States Adult Soccer Association in 1997 to be presented to the 1997 and 1998 U.S. Open Cup winners. It was returned in 1999 to the Hall of Fame, which was then headquartered in Oneonta, New York. The fragile trophy nowadays stands in the main trophy room of U.S. Soccer's headquarters in Chicago.

U.S. OPEN CUP CHAMPIONS OVER THE PAST 25 YEARS

1988	ST. LOUIS BUSCH S.C.
1989	ST. PETERSBURG (FL), KICKERS
1990	CHICAGO A.A.C. EAGLES
1991	BROOKLYN ITALIANS
1992	SAN JOSE (CA) OAKS
1993	SAN FRANCISCO C.D. MEXICO
1994	SAN FRANCISCO GREEK-AMERICAN A.C. REVOLUTION
1995	RICHMOND KICKERS
1996	D.C. UNITED
1997	DALLAS BURN
1998	CHICAGO FIRE
1999	ROCHESTER RAGING RHINOS
2000	CHICAGO FIRE
2001	L.A. GALAXY
2002	COLUMBUS CREW
2003	CHICAGO FIRE
2004	KANSAS CITY WIZARDS
2005	L.A. GALAXY
2006	CHICAGO FIRE
2007	NEW ENGLAND
2008	D.C. UNITED
2009	SEATTLE SOUNDERS F.C.
2010	SEATTLE SOUNDERS F.C.
2011	SEATTLE SOUNDERS F.C.
2012	SPORTING KANSAS CITY



Robins Drydock from Brooklyn, New York, was an early powerhouse, winning the National Challenge Cup in 1921.

From Participation to World Cups to Professional Leagues

WHILE MANY OF THOSE 1970S-ERA PARENTS were still shouting “Kick it,” U.S. Soccer President Werner Fricker, optimistic and competitive, had his own vision and sought to bring the World Cup tournament to American soil. The dreamer even backed the bid with a personal loan.

On July 4, 1988, Fricker celebrated the triumph as FIFA awarded the 1994 FIFA World Cup to the United States, an event modestly noted at the time but arguably the most important event of the last 25 years of U.S. Soccer history. American soccer had arrived. All those kids, all those parents, all those fans, and all those years of hard work now were charged with a uniquely difficult task—organizing a World Cup and convincing the doubters that America had a soccer heart.

The results were overwhelming, and to this day, the 1994 FIFA World Cup holds the record for the largest attendance ever, even though an additional 12 matches were added to later editions of the tournament. Alan Rothenberg and his team of organizers put on an event that showed FIFA that not only was the United States a soccer nation, it also was committed to growing the game.

Among the promises Fricker and his compatriots made to FIFA was that America would establish a Division 1 professional league. This was a bold promise, given the era and the fact NASL had ceased operations in 1984; but bold was the style of the late-1980s U.S. Soccer Federation, and bold was the response. Major League Soccer (MLS) was born in 1996 and rapidly became a financially sound, stable league that provided American players and fans with top-quality soccer for the first time in more than a decade. Just as America's great entrepreneurs were attracted to the game in the 1960s and '70s, a new generation of soccer devotees came on board to power MLS. The Kraft family, Phil Anschutz, and Lamar Hunt (again) all saw the future, and it was bright.

When the U.S. team went to the 1990 FIFA World Cup, most of the players were what today might be called semiprofessionals, and



not in a negative way, but in a realistic description of their game. There was no top-level domestic league for these players. Other than World Cup or Olympic qualifying matches, there were no other significant matches to play in.

This couldn't remain the situation, and aggressive, forward-thinking leaders such as Rothenberg, who doubled as the president of the Federation, Dr. Robert Contiguglia, who succeeded Rothenberg, and today's president Sunil Gulati made player development and sound business practices the cornerstones of soccer's future. Project 2010, the initiative to put the United States on a course to win a World Cup, was unveiled, and development academies opened. Partnerships with major sponsors such as NIKE brought new funds and marketing glitz to the game, and the U.S. Under-17 Men's National Team Residency Program started. Still governing from the heart as their predecessors had, the new generation of leaders added business and administrative acumen to the mixture.

In the glow of the 1994 FIFA World Cup and the establishment of MLS, the American women of soccer left a huge mark on the 1990s. In the world of women's soccer, the U.S. team dominated the decade, winning two World Cups, the 1996 Olympic Games, and the Pan Am Games, among many other cups and tournaments. In just one generation from Title IX, the United States had produced the greatest array of women soccer players ever seen.



A veteran of sports and Federation marketing and a Venue Executive Director for World Cup USA 1994, Dan Flynn has been the Chief Executive Officer of U.S. Soccer since 1999. "That was the year the Federation put together a strategic business plan that still today guides all our activities," said Dr. Robert Contiguglia, who named Flynn to the post. "Dan put that together, and it really focused our efforts so that today we keep growing on all levels. Even if it didn't gain headlines, it was a key point in our history."

U.S. Soccer Presidents Sunil Gulati (above), Dr. Robert Contiguglia (right), and Chief Executive Officer/Secretary General Dan Flynn (left)—the leadership that took the organization into the 21st century.





Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, a longtime supporter of U.S. Soccer, with FIFA President Dr. João Havelange and President of the U.S. Soccer Federation Werner Fricker.

WERNER FRICKER, PRESIDENT OF U.S. SOCCER FROM 1984 TO 1990, conceived and successfully pursued what many considered an audacious attempt to have the 1994 FIFA World Cup staged in the United States. A long-time Federation leader, Fricker was a noted player of his era, representing the United States at Olympic Games level and captaining his club team, the Philadelphia United German-Hungarians, to a National Amateur Cup title in 1965. His son, Werner, Jr., recalls his father's drive in life and to pursue the World Cup:

"What really drove the 1994 World Cup bid were the national teams, player development, and winning. My father saw the national team as the core of the entire soccer society. He had had the experience of being part of the 1964 Olympic Games qualifications, but we failed to qualify. When he came back, I remember that he said, 'Some-

day I am going to straighten this out, and we are going to win.'

"That became his mission. Everything he spoke about was the game. In the house, at dinner, we spoke about player development and how to win. I remember many times when he'd come back from a World Cup qualifier or some big match and come right to the German-Hungarian's clubhouse and get right into technical and tactical discussions of what was going on with the club teams!

"He knew how to overcome obstacles. When the bid for 1994 was under way—this was in 1987 and 1988—the Federation really didn't have any money, but he pledged his personal assets against a loan to make sure we could do what we needed. As a builder and land developer, he had quite a few close business associates who could help with financing; in his field, you usually backed up a loan against your personal funds, and he got a line

of credit. This was a pretty brave thing to do, but he believed in the project and believed that the money would come back when the World Cup was here.

"He was a builder and land management professional by trade, and he saw a duty to build the teams, too, to create success. And he brought lots of people into the fold. He was always looking for people—in the game or not—who wanted to contribute, and he made sure they had a role. He loved surrounding himself with people who knew the game, loved the game, and played the game. Anything that could be made better and anyone who could help do it—he was for it.

"You know, a lot of people think our bid for the 1986 World Cup was just a training exercise geared toward the 1994 effort, but isn't remotely the case. My father didn't do things that way. He worked just as hard on that attempt."

U.S. Soccer Foundation

WHEN THE WORLD CUP 1994 Organizing Committee set its sights on leaving a legacy for soccer, the creation of financial bedrock for future growth was the primary goal. The U.S. Soccer Foundation, the major charitable arm of soccer, was the result of the long-term World Cup vision, established with the profits from that overwhelmingly successful tournament. The Foundation's work is focused on its mission "to enhance, assist and grow the sport of soccer in the United States with a special emphasis on underserved communities."

Since its inception, the U.S. Soccer Foundation has provided more than \$57 million in funding to support soccer organizations in all 50 capital cities and the District of Columbia. By awarding over 600 grants since 1994, the Foundation has helped support the growth of soccer in the United States while benefiting thousands of individuals nationwide. In addition to providing organizations with financial support, the Foundation also provides safe places for children to play through its field-building initiative. More than 1,100 fields have been built or enhanced as a result of the Foundation's desire to offer children in underserved urban



areas the opportunity to play soccer in a safe environment. Furthermore, the Foundation has created and implemented Soccer for Success, a soccer-based after-school program that provides children in under-resourced areas with physical activity, nutrition education, and mentorship, at no cost to their families.

In its continued effort to grow the game, the Foundation partners with Eurosport to execute the Passback program. Passback allows individuals and organizations to collect and redistribute soccer equipment to organizations in need both

in the United States and around the world. To date, the Foundation has collected and redistributed more than 800,000 pieces of equipment.

Through its work, both on and off the field, the U.S. Soccer Foundation has helped provide significant opportunities in the sport of soccer, especially in underserved communities. By continuing partnerships with high-quality community and corporate partners and with the support of those invested in "the beautiful game," the impact of the U.S. Soccer Foundation will continue to grow for years to come.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Dear Dr. Havelange:

The United States of America would welcome the opportunity to serve as the host country for the 1994 World Cup soccer tournament. First-class stadium, hotel, transportation, communications, and other necessary physical facilities already exist within the United States to stage the tournament in a manner befitting its rich history and tradition.

Our country has had considerable experience in hosting successful major international sporting events, with the 1984 Olympic Games and the 1984 American Games being only the most recent examples. We were particularly delighted to witness the tremendous spectator response to the soccer competition during the 1984 Olympic Games. With the remarkable increase in both the number of soccer participants in the United States and Americans' interest in this worldwide sport, we expect that the 1994 World Cup would be exceptionally well received here.

I am aware that the Federation Internationale de Football Association has requested certain governmental guarantees with respect to the 1994 World Cup. Certain of these guarantees sought, such as those relating to State and local taxes, fall within the domain of State and local governments under our political system, and certain others (such as those relating to transportation and hotels) are in the province of our private sector. At the Federal level, we will be pleased to give you written assurances in the form of visas, work permits, and customs, which will be provided by the applicable Federal government agencies. Letters setting forth the specifics of these guarantees will accompany the bid being submitted by the United States Soccer Federation.

The United States not only provided similar guarantees to the International Olympic Committee for the 1984 Olympic Games, but also offered a spirit of volunteerism, enthusiasm, and private sector support we believe to be unsurpassed. That same spirit is extended to FIFA for the 1994 World Cup, along with a pledge of my full support.

Sincerely,

Ronald Reagan

Dr. Jose Havelange
President
Federation Internationale de Football
Association
Hittigweg 11
8031 Zurich
Switzerland

U.S. Soccer has received significant White House support, including Ronald Reagan's letter to FIFA that bolstered the bid for the 1994 World Cup.

Winning the bid in 1988

ON MONDAY, JULY 4, 1988, in Zurich, the United States was awarded the rights to host the 1994 FIFA World Cup, a decision that made front-page headlines around the world and set American soccer on an accelerated growth path that hasn't abated to this day. But for those directly involved in the presentation and the FIFA Executive Committee's decision, predicting how the decision would go wasn't easy. Jim Trecker, who was working as the press officer for the bidding committee at that time, recalls what it was like:

"Werner Fricker could be stern at times. He could be hard to read, and July 4, 1988, was one of those times. A fairly small group of people who had worked on the bid was in a smallish holding room at the Mövenpick Hotel in Regensdorf, on the outskirts of Zurich, where the FIFA Exco was meeting to make the decision. The morning went smoothly as we edited and reedited the final presentation that was to be made when FIFA summoned our presenters—Gene Edwards, Werner Fricker, and Scott LeTellier. I

remember they came back from their session in the Exco room feeling that they had done their best and that they were satisfied they had made the USA's case.

"We remained shut in our room, nervously drinking bottled water and worrying. After about a half hour of that aggravating silence, Werner alone was called to return to the Exco room, along with the delegation heads from Brazil and Morocco. Now the tension was really up in our room. For as confident as we could be about the bid documents and all the months of work, nobody knows how a vote can go.

"Rather suddenly, Werner returned, grim faced, walking down the small foyer of our holding room, saying absolutely nothing. We had no idea the outcome, but if his face was the story, it didn't seem good! I know my nerves were frayed at that point. Finally, after what seemed like minutes but must have been no more than 15 or so seconds, Thom Meredith, the Federation's communications chief said, 'Well... what was the vote?'

"Ten, seven, two,' came the reply to a silent, anxious room. Finally after another agitated prompt from someone, Fricker disclosed simply, 'USA.' That's all he said, understated in his stern style. No fist pumping, no cheers, just congratulations and firm handshakes all around.

"Amazingly, by now FIFA was already beginning its news conference to announce the decision, but nobody had told our room anything about it or notified us that it was time to attend! We were still in the room when one of FIFA's senior people put his head in the door and said, 'What are you still doing here? Go, go, the news conference is under way.' We were almost late for our own great announcement!

From there it was on to a series of media interviews—long-distance conference calls in that era—and a very special Fourth of July celebration at the American Club of Zurich that night."



An exultant United States delegation celebrated the 1994 World Cup designation outside the FIFA hotel.



Major League Soccer

IN ITS 17 COMPLETED SEASONS to date, Major League Soccer (MLS) has become a world-respected league, nurtured countless dozens of international stars, and altered the landscape of its franchise cities through its visionary stadium initiatives. On a solid financial and competitive footing, MLS already is the most durable major soccer league in American history. With carefully considered expansion plans, newly signed television contracts, and team rosters replete with international star power, it will carry the flag impressively into the future.

Commissioner Don Garber has been at the helm of Major League Soccer through this electrifying spell, which has galvanized soccer stalwarts nationwide. With a growing fan base and magnificent facilities, MLS teams have become proud partners with their cities. When he speaks about the league's potential and its 21st-century reality, he is simultaneously a fan and an executive, clearly anticipating a bright future. He has seen the league maintain ad-

mirable stability, with the kind of media and marketing success that those of previous generations hardly dared dream of.

"Our vision is that MLS wants to be among the top leagues in the world. It's that simple, and that's been our standing principle for years," he says. "We want to continue to improve our quality on the field not only at the first team level but also through our teams' developmental programs and academies.

"Moreover, we want to continue to work hard to make our clubs even more relevant to their communities, becoming not just a team or a franchise but a significant piece of a city's identity. We have soccer-specific stadiums now in 13 cities, and more are in development or construction phase. These facilities give soccer fans a true home, a focus for their passion, which we think is a powerful equation for the growth of the game. These stadiums say to the fans and to their cities 'we live here, we train here, we play here, we know your team is important to you.'"

More than \$2 billion of private and public money has been invested in soccer's infrastructure in the United States, and that provides MLS and soccer fans of all ages and devotions the sense that they are part of something permanent. Today's stadiums are, in the view of many, the best for their size of any in the world; that alone speaks for how far soccer and MLS has come.

John Harkes and his D.C. United teammates raise the first MLS Cup (above left). Major League Soccer has thrived since its inaugural 1996 season, with the development of facilities for each U.S.-based MLS club, including a majority of soccer-specific stadiums (opposite).

SEC	ROW	SEAT
129	7	24
52186	1-26604	X7
Price \$19.00		

MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER
INAUGURAL GAME
APRIL 6, 1996

D.C. UNITED
VS.
SAN JOSE CLASH

STADIUM
SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 1996
PRE-GAME 4:45 P.M.
KICK-OFF 7:00 P.M.



The U.S. Soccer Development Academy started in 2007 to improve player development. Carmel United (now Indiana United) won the inaugural U-15/16 Development Academy Finals Week in 2008.

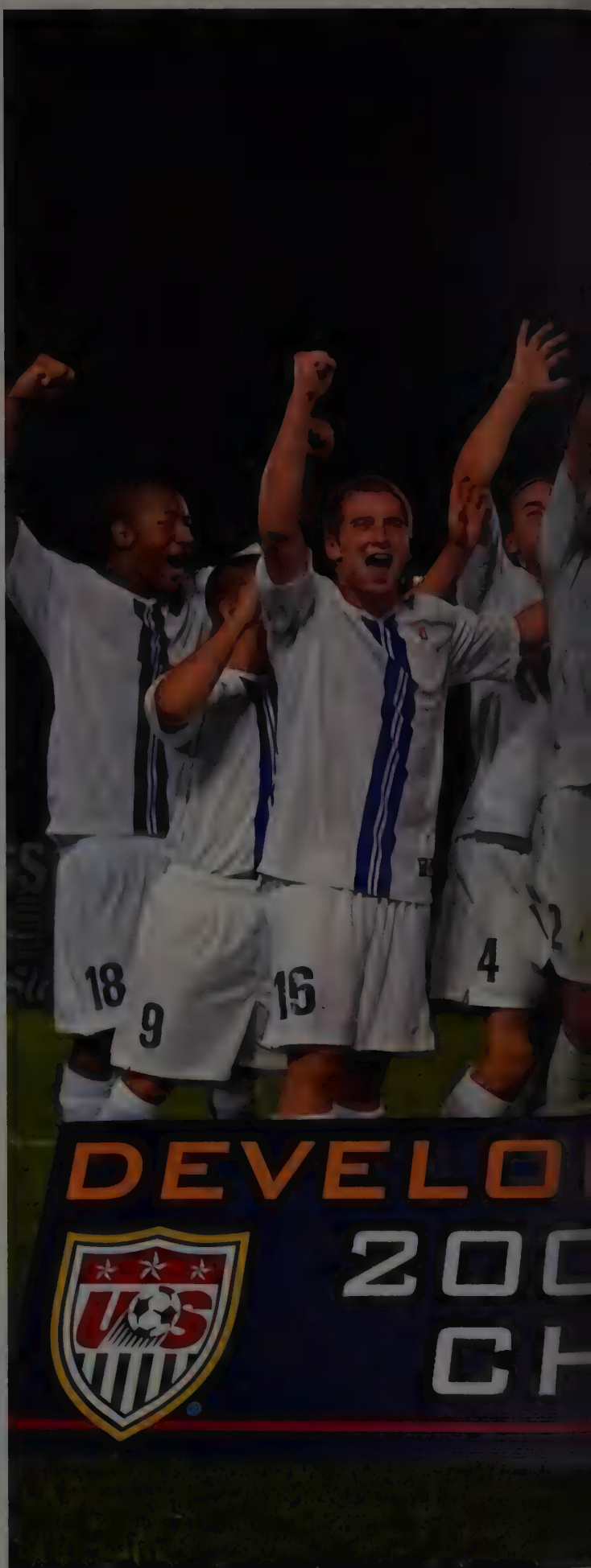
Today's Scene

SOCCER TODAY IS A FAR CRY FROM the era when, in Walter Bahr's words, "we called the equipment guy 'the stuff man.' He took care of the stuff. Basically he carried a shoe last and a hammer to pound down the studs."

U.S. soccer in the 21st century has welcomed the era of soccer-specific stadiums (13 in all) that host MLS teams and the busy calendar of international matches. The National Teams have a permanent headquarters at The Home Depot Center in California, where athletes can play on world-class fields named after inspirational players and coaches of the past, Glenn Myernick and David Vanole. Exposure for the sport is at its highest level ever as major television networks ESPN, FOX Soccer, NBC Sports, and Univision broadcast dozens and dozens of matches every week from the United States and leagues around the world.

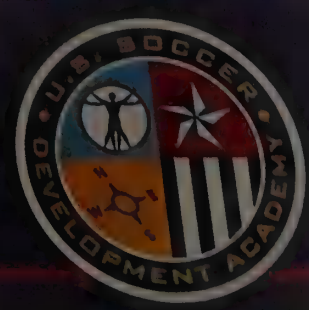
Player development thrives via the U.S. Soccer Development Academy system, a revolutionary training model that has thousands of athletes across the country following the best practices of U.S. Soccer, which are in line with those of the best soccer-playing nations in the world. These aspiring players are constantly being scouted by Federation staff coaches, and hundreds have already earned opportunities to be incorporated into the National Team programs. Coaching schools continue to evolve and raise the bar for developing coaches at all levels, and educational opportunities for the 145,000 registered referees expand every year, while a new path is being established for those officials striving to reach the elite level.

American soccer on the field now matches American organizational ingenuity and energy. Major League Soccer has a memorable history. Youth have options. Player and staff development programs are state-of-the-art. And, most important, the world admires American soccer.





U.S. SOCCER DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY
U-15/16
CHAMPION











WORLD CUP MEMORIES



IS IT ANY WONDER why the boys consider "13" their lucky number? We sailed from home on Friday the 13th; it took 13 days to reach Rio de Janeiro [the first major stop on the voyage]; there are 13 stars and stripes in our shield; 13 teams entered the 1st World's Championship of Football; our first game was on July 13; and 13 goals were scored during our games in the championship series.

—FROM THE OFFICIAL REPORT OF TEAM MANAGER WILFRED CUMMINGS

1930 World Cup

LOCATION: URUGUAY

CHAMPION: URUGUAY

U.S. FINISH: SEMIFINAL

USA-BELGIUM 3-0 (MCGHEE 23, FLORIE 45, PATENAUE 69)

USA-PARAGUAY 3-0 (PATENAUE 10, 15, 50)

USA-ARGENTINA 1-6 (BROWN 89)

AS MIGHT BE EXPECTED after more than three-quarters of a century, myths abound about significant events. An enduring myth about the United States' 1930 World Cup team is that six of the players were former English professionals. The fact is that six of the players were indeed born in Britain (five in Scotland, one in England), but they had come to the United States as youths. Only one, George Moorhouse, had ever played soccer in Britain, in two appearances for the third-division Tranmere Rovers, eight years earlier.

Unlike the modern era, where coaches spend years scouting and working with players before choosing a World Cup squad, manager Wilfred Cummings and coach Robert Millar had just three warm-up matches prior to the trip to Uruguay. Eleven men came from Northeast teams, two from St. Louis, one from Cleveland, one from Detroit, and one from Philadelphia. They had never before played a game together prior to the South American adventure.







The United States reached the semifinals of the first World Cup. The squad defeated Paraguay and Belgium in the group stage before a showdown with Argentina. No other CONCACAF nation has ever reached a World Cup semifinal.



ARGENTINE
TEAM
JUNE 1914-1920

TAKEN AT OLYMPIC STADIUM, ARGENTINE, JANUARY
SECOND FINAL GAME 1914
ARGENTINE-UNITED STATES
FIRST WORLD LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES.

ATTENDING
94880



*The team sailed on the S.S. Roma to the 1934 World Cup, where Buff Donelli (**right, between Tom Florie and Joe Martinelli**) became a star. Drawn against the hosts, Italy, the team bowed out in the first round. Tom Florie (**below, center**), who had captained the 1930 U.S. World Cup team, led the way again in 1934.*





1934 World Cup

LOCATION: ITALY
CHAMPION: ITALY
U.S. FINISH: FIRST ROUND

USA-ITALY 1-7 (DONELLI 57)

HE WAS A HERO IN BOSTON, celebrated in Pittsburgh, and remembered in Los Angeles and Cleveland as head coach of the Rams. He played for Elmer Layden and coached Columbia to an Ivy League title. And that was just his gridiron football resume.

But it was soccer that gave him his start, and for one brief period, he was a United States superstar. Aldo T. "Buff" Donelli began playing soccer as a teen in western Pennsylvania, and by 1929 he had won a national amateur championship with Heidelberg Kickers, scoring five goals in the final. "Once he got on the ball," said contemporary Bert Patenaude, "he was tough to knock off. He was built like a little tank."

Despite never playing professionally, Donelli was known as the best center forward in the land and was chosen for the 1934 World Cup team. And for a brief moment—he only played twice for the Stars and Stripes—he wrote soccer history.

The 1934 World Cup was the first one to require nations to qualify—32 countries entered and were to be cut to 16 finalists through qualification matches. For the United States this meant a match against Mexico, and it was Donelli's day. The "little tank" scored all four goals in a 4-2 win that put America into its second World Cup finals.

Two breakaway goals, one ground shot, and the game-clinching technically crafty shot between two defenders, and Donelli suddenly shot to stardom in his first game. Three days later he scored the USA's only goal in their defeat to Italy. Donelli had offers from Lazio and Preston North End, but, with war on the horizon, he returned home to win one more amateur title (in 1940 with Morgan Strasser, the industrial club with which he had started his journey) and ventured off into gridiron football to create more legends.





English Goalie Williams scrambles to catch the ball before it goes over goal line to register the world's soccer major upset. Joe Gaetjens of New York, not in picture, headed and deflected a shot by Walter Bahr of Philadelphia, past the surprised keeper.

Some thought the score was a newspaper misprint, but the USA's 1-0 win over England remains one of international soccer's greatest upsets. England goalkeeper Bert Williams (left and above) was helpless against Joe Gaetjens's goal.

1950 World Cup

LOCATION: BRAZIL
CHAMPION: URUGUAY
U.S. FINISH: FIRST ROUND

USA-SPAIN 1-3 (PARIANI 17)
USA-ENGLAND 1-0 (GAETJENS 38)
USA-CHILE 2-5 (WALLACE 47, MACA 48 PK)

WHEN WE THINK OF THE 1950 WORLD CUP, we generally think of the historic 1-0 victory over England. But, as Walter Bahr remembers it, there was more to the championships that year than just that Belo Horizonte upset.

"Right before we left for Brazil, we had played an all-England XI touring team, and we held them to a 1-0 win. There was a banquet after the game and somebody—it might have been Sir Stanley Rous or maybe the team captain—said that when we got to Brazil we'd find out what English football was all about. Now, I never really noticed any difference! At the club level, English teams had been coming over regularly, and we had played against Liverpool, Newcastle . . . we knew about English football.

Everybody remembers the England match, but against Spain I think we played our best match. I think it was the best game we had played up to that point, including the four qualifying matches. We only had a couple of days to prepare for it, and we held our own for most of the game. It was unusual for that era, but we had really good ball-handling fullbacks—Joe Maca, Charlie Colombo, and Harry Keough were all really good. We held them for the first 82 minutes but then we had a situation at the back. Maca took off down the left side against his man and seemed to win the challenge. It's always a weak excuse to blame the ref, but we all thought the ball had gone over the endline for a goal kick, but the ref evidently didn't, and

U.S. defender Harry Keough challenges for a header in front of the U.S. goal, as goalkeeper Frank Borghi keeps a close watch.





The U.S. team, above: (Back row, left to right) Manager Chubby Lyons, Joe Maca, Charlie Columbo, Frank Borghi, Hary Keough, Walter Bahr, Coach Bill Jeffrey;

(Front row, left to right) Frank Wallace, Ed McIlvenny, Gino Pariani, Joe Gaetjens, John Souza, Ed Souza.

Spain scored to tie it up. You never played for a tie in that era, and we didn't; and that was the problem. They scored twice more, and maybe it was partly their play and partly our conditioning, but we played a fine game.

We got a lot of confidence from the Spain game, but for the first 20 minutes or so against England we were shell-shocked as they kept coming forward and taking opportunities. But as the game went on, we got better. It's always been said that I got the "assist" on the goal, but what I did was take a shot. I took a throw-in from Ed McIlvenny, my teammate on the Philadelphia Nationals, and I pushed it forward. I took a shot to the far post, a good decent ball. Joe Gaetjens had to move to his right to catch up to my shot, and he got his head on it for a deflection. Whether it was a "good" deflection or not, it beat the goalkeeper. Joe was sort of an acrobatic player, a goal scorer, and a fine center forward. But I was taking a shot, not trying to set anyone up."

Frank Borghi (above) is carried off the field in celebration.

The USA emerged back onto the world stage at Italia '90. Players such as Paul Caligiuri, Bruce Murray, John Harkes, Peter Vermes, and Desmond Armstrong (left to right), led the way back to the World Cup after an absence of 40 years and signaled that the USA was back on the world stage.

1990 World Cup

LOCATION: ITALY

CHAMPION: WEST GERMANY

U.S. FINISH: FIRST ROUND

USA-CZECHOSLOVAKIA 1-5 (CALIGIURI 60)

USA-ITALY 0-1

USA-AUSTRIA 1-2 (MURRAY 83)

AFTER THE "SHOT HEARD ROUND THE WORLD," the United States stepped back onto the world's stage for the first time in 40 years when they competed in Italia '90. Led by head coach Bob Gansler, a team of mostly college players littered with a few young professionals traveled to Italy with the hopes of earning the USA a measure of respectability within the soccer community and their fans back home.

After an opening game 5-1 loss to Czechoslovakia, the U.S. team traveled to Rome to face the mighty hosts in front of a packed house at the Stadio Olimpico. The Italians, who were overwhelming favorites in the match and counted among the candidates to lift the trophy, entered the game with a supreme confidence and backed by the support of an entire nation. Even after surrendering a goal in the 11th minute, the USA stood tall for the majority of the match and even had a chance to snatch a draw when a Peter Vermes shot was narrowly turned aside by Walter Zenga. The 1-0 scoreline left the crowd in Rome and those watching around the world both surprised and impressed with the resolute American squad.

Despite the defeat and a 2-1 loss to Austria in their final group match, the U.S. team had demonstrated to the world their emerging talent in the game. The United States had now set its sights on tackling the final frontier in international soccer, and names like Meola, Harkes, Ramos, and Wynalda would soon become household names in the U.S. Soccer world.







Peter Vermes was a standout member of the 1990 World Cup team, playing at forward. He played in the qualification rounds for that tournament and then every minute at Italia '90. He remembers those days and what it said about American soccer 23 years ago.

"When we got Italy in the draw, that was my biggest scare since Italy was at home. They had some big players. But the Czechs were a real surprise in our first game. One thing you can say about Eastern European teams is they are technically strong, and they were. We got out of our game plan and were stretched all over the field. After that game, a fight broke out in one of the training sessions between a group of players. Some may have looked at that as a negative, but really it said something positive about this group of guys. We were embarrassed, and guys took that to heart, so we were all frustrated. But this was the same group of players who were not afraid to fail against Trinidad and Tobago, and we all said before the Italy game: 'There's no way we're having that happen again.'

Going into Italy in Rome, we were at the stadium pretty early, and already there were fans from the United States. They were waving American flags and they had red, white, and blue painted on their faces. I can't tell you how much the level of vibe picked up in the bus. We felt we had a connection back to the United States, and that people there really cared about us in the World Cup. Hours before the game, I was on the field; there were maybe 300 people in the stadium, and it was already so loud. I lay down in the center circle trying to think about what the stadium would be like in about three hours. What I imagined turned out to be completely different. It was all red, white, and green, people going completely nuts.

I have a few memories that stand out from that game. We had a defensive corner kick late in the game, and I remember being down in the box. I was always a talker on the field, and I yelled out to Chris Sullivan, 'I got Baresi!' He said to me, 'I got Vialli!' Then we both looked at each other, thinking, 'We got nobody!' There we were, shouting out their names because they were star players—but I don't think Baresi or Vialli was saying, 'I got Vermes!'

There was also my shot that almost went in. I got the rebound off a free kick and the 'keeper literally saved it with his behind and it was cleared off the line—that was a close chance. But the moment that stands out for me the most was a sequence we had at one point, of 20 or so straight passes of possession. I really think about that passing sequence. It was a glimpse of the fact that we weren't there yet, but we had the potential. We could do things. It said a lot about us in coming back from a 5-1 loss to Czechoslovakia; we lost to Italy 1-0, and we weren't afraid to fail. We left everything we had on the field."



*In the cauldron of Rome's Stadio Olimpico, the USA battled Italy to the final moment. Tab Ramos (**above left**) and Marcelo Balboa (**right**) took the play directly to the Italians.*



1991 World Cup

TOGETHER WITH
CHAMPIONSHIP
U.S. FIFTH FIFTH

USA WOMEN'S NATIONAL TEAM (USA) 1-0 (4-0) SWEDEN
USA WOMEN'S NATIONAL TEAM (USA) 1-0 (1-0) SWEDEN
USA WOMEN'S NATIONAL TEAM (USA) 1-0 (1-0) SWEDEN
USA WOMEN'S NATIONAL TEAM (USA) 1-0 (1-0) SWEDEN
USA WOMEN'S NATIONAL TEAM (USA) 1-0 (1-0) SWEDEN
USA WOMEN'S NATIONAL TEAM (USA) 1-0 (1-0) SWEDEN
USA WOMEN'S NATIONAL TEAM (USA) 1-0 (1-0) SWEDEN
USA WOMEN'S NATIONAL TEAM (USA) 1-0 (1-0) SWEDEN

The 1991 FIFA Women's World Cup, held in China, was a tremendous success. Large crowds flocked to the stadiums to see some of the players of the women's game as the United States announced its presence on the world's stage.

The USA won all six games in the tournament, including its first ever Women's World Cup match, a 3-1 victory against Sweden. Women's national team head coach Pia Sundhage, and defender Marisa 2-1 in the World Cup final in Guangzhou. The great Michelle Allen scored both goals in the championship game and 10 goals overall in the tournament, a record that stood until the 2011 World Cup. Future stars Julie Foudry, Mia Hamm, Brandi Chastain, and Kristine Lilly won their first of several world titles.

Hamm scored twice in the tournament, while Jennings had six goals, including a hat trick in the somewhat surprising 7-2 semifinal victory against Germany. Jennings scored four times, including the other two goals in the semifinal. Wendy Gebauer, Joy Russell, and Foudry also added goals.

After accomplishing their remarkable achievement, the U.S. players returned home to relative anonymity, but the event was not forgotten and grew into the most successful international women's soccer program in history.





Brandi Chastain (left) tore through defenses, while Mia Hamm (above) and Kristine Lilly (below) showed the crowds their magical skills.





The Triple-Edged Sword

THEY CAME AT OPPONENTS with a ferocity, relentlessness, and creativity that set the standard for attacking play in the early years of women's international soccer. They were, in their simplest forms, a finisher, a slasher, and a leader—although all three had elements of each—and together Michelle Akers, Carin Gabarra, and April Heinrichs formed the “Triple-Edged Sword,” a trio of forwards who led the U.S. Women's National Team to the first-ever Women's World Cup title in China in 1991. Bestowed with the nickname by the Chinese media, who were awed by the power and skill of the USA's three strikers, they carved up opposing defenses by scoring 20 of the USA's 25 goals in the tournament. “Collectively, they were an irresistible force,” said Anson Dorrance, the U.S. head coach at that first Women's World Cup.

Such was the impact of the three that they not only made history on the field, but were

also responsible for giving women's soccer a small push toward mainstream acceptance in a sport that had long been dominated by men. “There was no question that a lot of things happened when people saw those three together,” said Dorrance. “FIFA saw overwhelming proof that women could attack like that. They basically put women's soccer on FIFA's map because they saw that they now had a great product to sell.” The 1991 Women's World Cup Final would be the last international match for Heinrichs, and while Akers and Gabarra would go on to future glories, the legend of the “Triple-Edged Sword” and the legacy of three all-time greats were sealed in China.

But while the media was enthralled by the entire team, including the subtle Shannon Higgins, 19-year-old sensation Mia Hamm, and precocious 20-year-olds Julie Foudy and Kristine Lilly, it was the striker with the long, curly locks, a

dribbler so unorthodox she was called “crazy legs” by her teammates and a breakneck forward, who captured the imagination of the Chinese media. And the Triple-Edged Sword was born. “We had total confidence that we were going to win,” said Akers, winner of the Golden Boot as the top scorer in the World Cup. “We had a huge amount of freedom to play because I knew that if I didn't score, Carin or April would, or if I got double-teamed, they would be open. My thinking back then was not whether we were going to win, but how many goals we were going to score.”

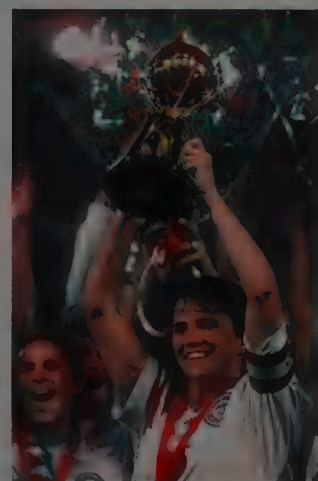
“We all bought into the diversity we had as players,” said Heinrichs, who scored four times in China. “We cast aside our egos for the good of the team and knew on any given day, any one of us could break open a game. To be honest, there are a lot of teams in the world that would like to have one of those players, and we had three.”

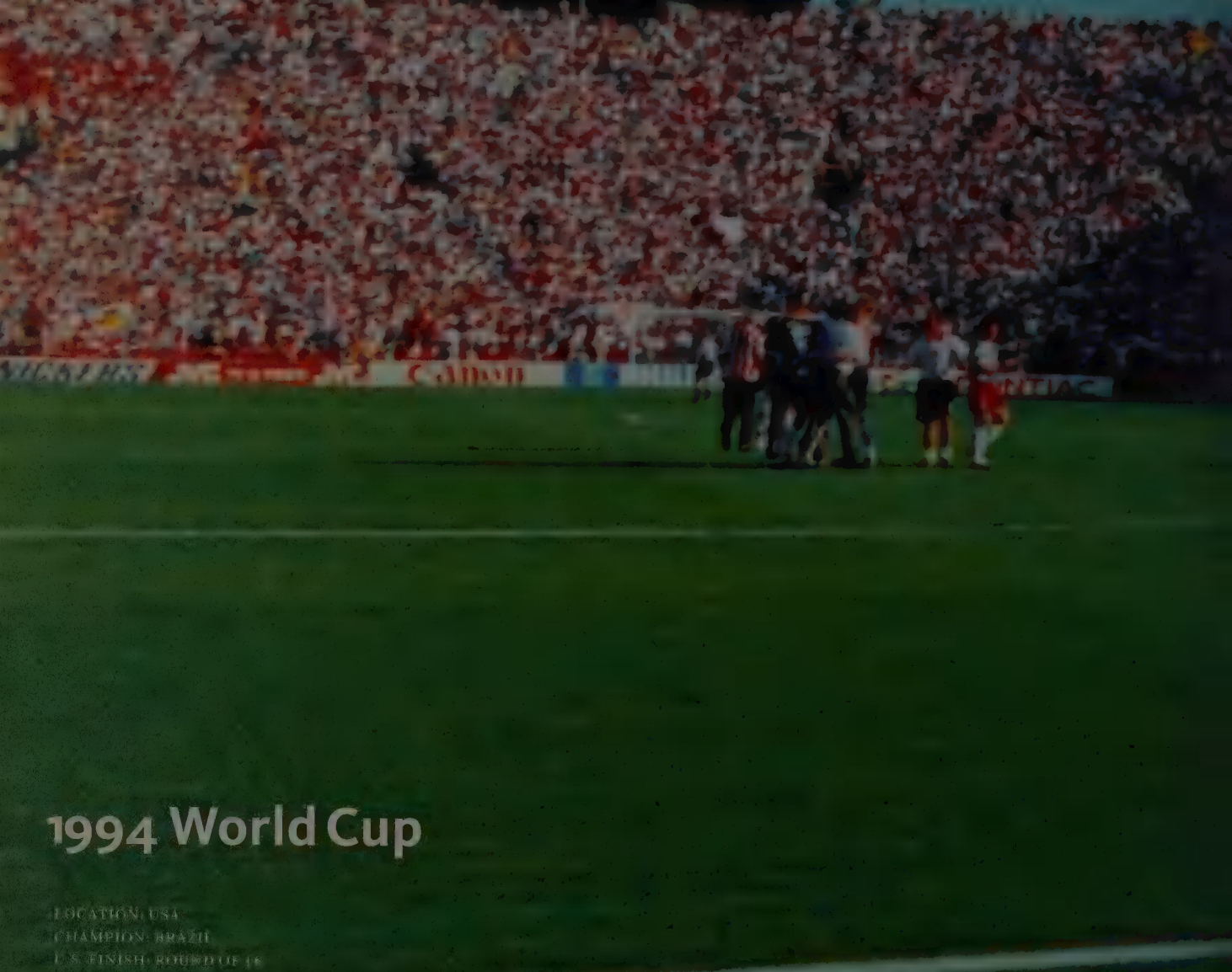


And what made that trio so special is that as individuals they were remarkably unique, bringing a different set of skills to one common denominator—the will to win. As fate would have it, China 1991 was the last time the world got to see the three together; but their impact is still being felt years later, as a parade of top American strikers has followed in their very sharp and lethal footsteps.

April Heinrichs (left), Michelle Akers (above, top), and Carin Gabarra (above, bottom) were the Triple-Edged Sword of 1991.

Captain April Heinrichs accepts the first FIFA Women's World Cup Trophy.







of that young United States team were recognized and signaled the second coming of soccer in this country. Players on the field of glory became legends of the game at home and abroad. The 1950 World Cup, the first Hall of Fame. No longer a game of the underdog, soccer was now a sport of the elite. And the bar had continued to rise.

U.S. Soccer Federation President Alan Rothenberg (below left) with FIFA President João Havelange. (Right) The Rose Bowl was sold out for all seven of its matches; the Pontiac Silverdome made soccer history by becoming the first indoor venue in which the matches were played on natural grass.



Big Stadiums

THE 1994 FIFA WORLD CUP in the United States was a bold adventure right from the start. The organizing committee's slogan—"Making Soccer History and Leaving a Legacy for Soccer"—summed up the energy behind everyone's effort. This was to be no ordinary World Cup.

World Cup chairman Alan Rothenberg had a vision that the 1994 tournament would sell more tickets than any previous World Cup and that the stadiums would be full. One early model envisioned small-to medium-sized stadiums, but Rothenberg wanted to go big. Skeptics carped, but Rothenberg believed.

"I firmly believed that the U.S. is a big-event country, and if we promoted the World Cup as such it would be successful. There were a couple of things in my background that gave me

confidence in soccer. I got started in 1967 with Jack Kent Cooke in the United Soccer Association and then came back with the Aztecs in the North American Soccer League. I had gone to England to see soccer, and even though it wasn't Premier League at that time, it was pretty good. As a run-up to the 1984 Olympic Games [Rothenberg served as soccer commissioner for the Games], I had gone to the 1982 World Cup in Spain and seen the excitement. The 1984 Olympics was the main thing that convinced me. We knew back then that if we put the right trappings on it, the soccer tournament would be successful, and the fans would just flood in. We could do that for a World Cup, too.

"We knew right away that we couldn't just say, 'Here's the World Cup.' We put lots of things around it like the Legacy

Tour, and we created a 'hot ticket' through our advance Friends and Family Ticket Program; these things allowed us to create media coverage long in advance of the tournament and helped us turn it into a great event. There was more demand than anyone outside us anticipated."

When it was over, World Cup USA 1994 had drawn nearly 3.6 million fans, an average of 69,000 per match—proof that when you go big, you can reach and even exceed your goal.





USA's National
Team celebrates after scoring
against Colombia in the
World Cup.



For the second straight time, the USA took home a medal at the FIFA Women's World Cup.



1995 World Cup

LOCATION: SWEDEN

CHAMPION: NORWAY

U.S. FINISH: THIRD PLACE

USA-CHINA PR 3-3 (VENTURINI 22, MILBRETT 34, HAMM 51)

USA-DENMARK 2-0 (LILLY 9, MILBRETT 49)

USA-AUSTRALIA 4-1 (FOUDY 69, FAWCETT 72, OVERBECK 90+2, KELLER 90+4)

USA-JAPAN 4-0 (LILLY 8, 42, MILBRETT 45, VENTURINI 80)

USA-NORWAY 0-1

USA-CHINA PR 2-0 (VENTURINI 24, HAMM 55)

THE 1995 FIFA WOMEN'S WORLD CUP was the last time the tournament would be staged on a small scale. The cozy and quaint stadiums of Sweden were perfect at the time to showcase the second Women's World Cup as the USA, Norway, China, and host Sweden came in as favorites.

The U.S. team would fall to Norway in the semifinal, while Sweden was knocked out by China in the quarterfinal, returning the favor after the Swedes had ended China's run at the first Women's World Cup four years earlier. The USA lost Michelle Akers in the first match to head and knee injuries. She would return for the semifinal, but could not help push the U.S. past the eventual champion, Norway, and the Americans lost 1-0. The USA rebounded to defeat China 2-0 in the semifinal with goals from Mia Hamm and Tisha Venturini.





Michelle Alozie (number 10) and Fran Kirby (number 11) are teammates.

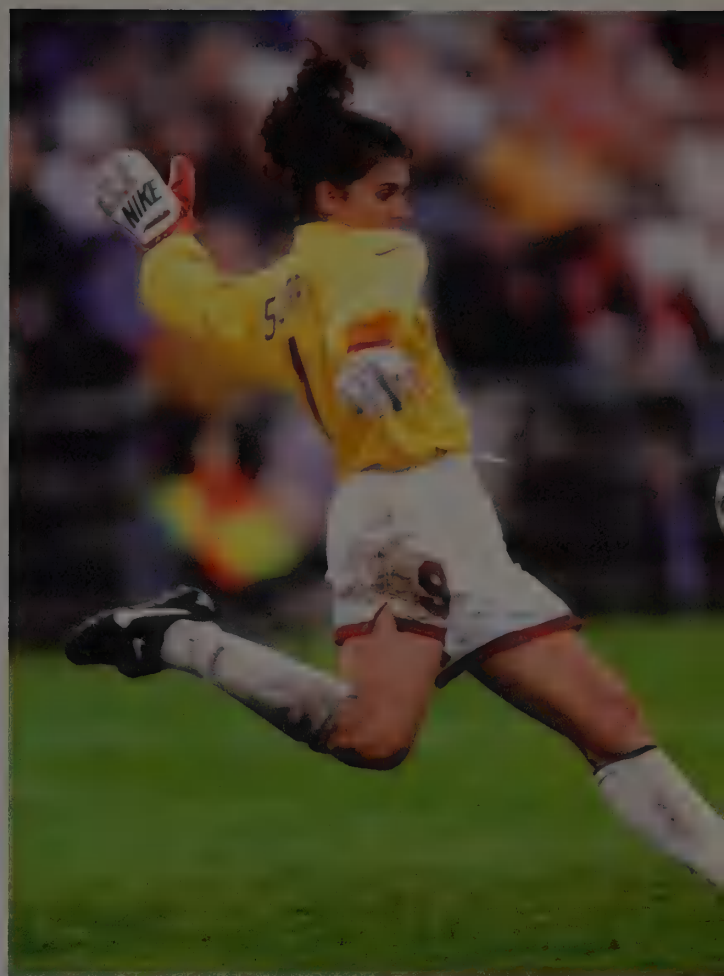




Mia Plays Goalkeeper

THE U.S. LED DENMARK 2-0 with just a few minutes left to play in the second group match at the 1995 FIFA Women's World Cup in Gavle, Sweden, when one of the oddest refereeing decisions in women's soccer history was made, creating one of the most unique moments ever seen in the game.

The U.S. goalkeeper Briana Scurry allegedly and inadvertently stepped out of the penalty area on a punt, and referee Mamadouba Camara of Guinea



decided that the rule violation warranted a red card. The USA had used all three of its allowed substitutes, so a backup goalkeeper could not be inserted into the match. What to do? Mia Hamm to the rescue.

The U.S. head coach Tony DiCicco chose the U.S. forward, who would end her career as the world's all-time leading scorer, to don Scurry's goalkeeper jersey. Hamm, a tremendous athlete who had played American football as a youngster,

pulled on Scurry's gloves and was tested almost immediately. The Danes had a free kick from just outside the edge of the box, but fortunately it was fired over the top. Hamm did handle several balls, including cutting off a cross from the right side with a collapse dive at the near post—and the Americans escaped unscathed.

To date, she is the only field player ever to go in goal for the U.S. Women's National Team.



1998 World Cup

LOCATION: FRANCE

CHAMPION: FRANCE

U.S. FINISH: FIRST ROUND

USA-GERMANY 0-2

USA-IRAN 1-2 (McBRIDE 87)

USA-YUGOSLAVIA 0-1

THE 1998 FIFA WORLD CUP held both promise and several challenges for the United States. The team had put together some impressive results during the cycle, including a fourth-place finish in the 1995 Copa America and a 1-0 win against Brazil in the semifinal of the 1998 Gold Cup. Support and interest from fans had grown since 1994, and with it increased expectations. Drawn into a group that included the perennial power Germany, Iran—an intriguing matchup—and a talented squad from Yugoslavia, a place in the knockout phase was by no means a guarantee for any team.

The U.S. team would be given a lesson in the sober reality of World Cup competition, losing the opening match to Germany in Paris. Then, in a match surrounded with political overtones, the United States stepped onto the field against Iran, needing a win. Chance after chance was created and left unfulfilled, and a late goal from Brian McBride provided little consolation as the U.S. fell 2-1 and saw their hopes of advancing disappear. Yugoslavia joined Germany in the Round of 16 following a 1-0 victory against the USA, and the American squad returned from France with a greater understanding of the margin between success and defeat at the international level. That experience would prove incredibly valuable for members of the squad who would return for another appearance on the world's stage four years later.

The presiding memory of the tournament, however, came when Iran was drawn into a group with the USA. The two nations weren't

speaking and had a 20-year history of diplomatic tension that had no end in sight. But now the USA and Iran would compete on the same turf, and by the time the match rolled around on June 21 in Lyon, the world was hyperventilating about what the showdown really meant.

For FIFA, June 21 was Fair Play Day, and the first time that initiative had fallen within a World Cup calendar. After considerable negotiation, FIFA and the six teams playing matches that day agreed to perform a pre-match handshake and take a group photo to demonstrate the spirit of fair play. The USA-Iran match began to take on airs of a diplomatic display rather than simply a soccer encounter.

Brian McBride recalls: "The biggest thing to me about the Iran match was the handshake. At first, the idea seemed cheesy and forced upon us, but as the tournament went along it became meaningful. We were an example for people outside the game in how to look each other in the eye and give a firm handshake and then play. And while we were aware of the drama surrounding the match, after the handshake and the picture we knew it was a game of soccer.

"For a few minutes we got a chance to show that although we were competing, we had respect for each other as athletes. The group picture really showed that both teams had this respect. When the picture happened, it didn't seem fake at all."



Amid international diplomatic tension, players from the USA and Iran posed together for a pre-game photo, while fans mingled happily in Lyon.



1999 World Cup

LOCATION: USA

CHAMPION: USA

U.S. FINISH: FIRST PLACE

USA-DENMARK 3-0 (HAMM 17, FOU DY 73, LILLY 89)

USA-NIGERIA 7-1 (OWN GOAL 2, HAMM 20, MILBRETT 23, 83, LILLY 32, AKERS 39, PARLOW 42)

USA-KOREA DPR 3-0 (MACMILLAN 56, VENTURINI 68, 76)

USA-GERMANY 3-2 (MILBRETT 16, CHASTAIN 49, FAWCETT 66)

USA-BRAZIL 2-0 (PARLOW 5, AKERS 80)

USA-CHINA PR 0-0 (5-4 PKS)

IN 1999, FOR THE FIRST TIME, the tournament was expanded to 16 teams and staged in huge stadiums across the United States, raising expectations for attendance, media coverage, and television audiences; these expectations were reached, surpassed, and then crushed.

The United States captured its second Women's World Cup championship while winning the hearts and minds of a nation and becoming the story of the year. The team played in front of packed houses across the country and advanced to the final after five straight victories, which included a come-from-behind 3-2 victory against Germany in the quarterfinals and a nail-biting 2-0 victory against Brazil in the semifinals.

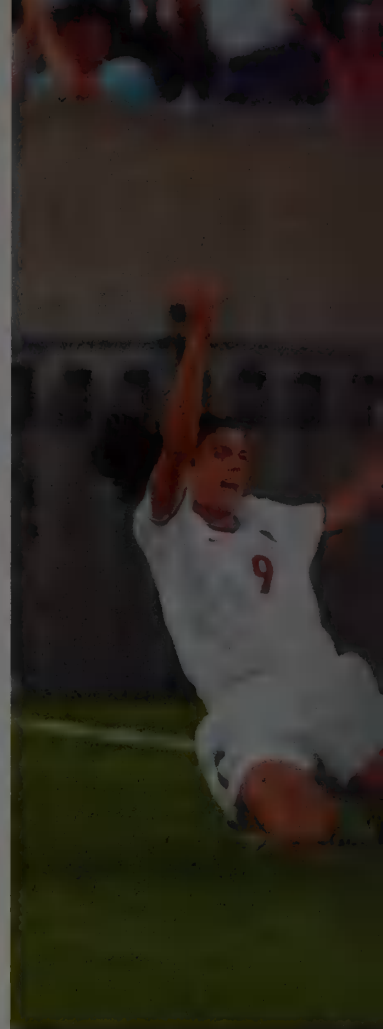
In the final, the USA battled China for a grueling 120 minutes before pulling out a breathtaking 5-4 penalty-kick victory in front of a sellout crowd of 90,185 fans at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena on July 10. The winning penalty-kick goal for the U.S. has become a pop culture moment in American history, with Brandi Chastain scoring and then celebrating the goal with the nation. With the championship, the United States became the first nation to win the Women's World Cup on its home soil.

"It was bizarre," said Scurry of her save in the penalty kick-out. "I didn't look at any of the other kickers, but for some reason, when I was walking into the goal, I looked at Liu and I heard something in my head: 'This is the one.' It was just a feeling. Something came over me, a sort of calmness. It was an instinctual thing, an intuitive thing. Quite honestly, I think no matter where that ball was going to go, I was going to get it."

"There was a lot of pressure on us as a team because as big as it was, if we lost, the momentum [of women's soccer] would have petered out," said Tony DiCicco, head coach of the 1999 Women's World Cup team. "We battled through every match, and it just got bigger and bigger. The final match in Pasadena unfortunately was 0-0, but it was one of those incredibly exciting, tense nil-nil matches. The penalty kicks only added to the excitement. I think our 1999 team set the stage for women's athletics, women's soccer, and the next generation to have something to aspire to."



The sun-drenched Rose Bowl provided the stage for the USA's dramatic shootout win over China. The tension of the penalty kicks was evident, but when Brandi Chastain won the match, the celebrations began.



Michelle Akers

SHE WAS THE ONLY U.S. PLAYER who wasn't actually on the field when Brandi Chastain's decisive penalty kick stretched the right corner of the net at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena to end the historic 1999 Women's World Cup Final, but Michelle Akers was there in spirit, with all the players and the more than 90,000 fans who made it the most-watched women's sporting event in history.

Leading into the tournament, the first superstar of women's soccer had been coping with the ravages of chronic fatigue syndrome for years. The world's undisputed top soccer player in the late 1980s and early 1990s, and some say the best American woman ever to play the game, needed to be carefully managed—in essence protected from her own remarkable competitiveness—in order to survive the entire World Cup tournament. She didn't quite make it. Near the end of regulation play, Akers had to be assisted to the locker room after leaving the World Cup Final following a collision with U.S. goalkeeper

Briana Scurry. Akers had given every ounce of energy she had. When Chastain's kick hit the back of the net, Akers was in the locker room in the bowels of the Rose Bowl, lying prone on a medical table, just trying to stay conscious.

"I remember they had ice on my whole body, and I had an IV in each arm. Our doctor was yelling at me," said Akers, who had scored the clinching goal from the penalty spot against Brazil in the semifinal. "I mean, he was in my face saying, 'Michelle! Snap out of it!' They had this little TV in the corner, and all of a sudden I looked up and saw Brandi kick it in. I told them, 'Okay, get these things out of me,' and I started pulling the IVs out, getting up. They're like, 'No, you can't,' and I just pulled everything out. They realized that I wasn't going to stay—I just wanted to get out onto the field. I tried to get out through the tunnel, but all these bodyguards were there because President Clinton was also coming through. I was trying to push past the big bodyguards, and they're like, 'No, you can't go

past.' I just said, 'Yeah, that's my team, I gotta get out there.'"

Still in a daze, Akers made it to the podium, was embraced by her jubilant teammates, and received her winners' medal. And then came another special moment, one that very few athletes get to experience.

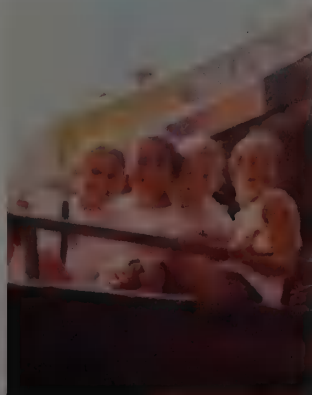
"As my teammates ran their victory lap, I was walking around in the middle of the field watching them with our doctor and a friend of mine who got onto the field," said Akers. "Then my friend said, 'Mich, do you hear that?' I was half in a daze and I said, 'What?' She told me, 'The whole stadium is chanting your name.' Then I was totally humbled, in awe, with goose bumps and almost crying."

As it turned out, it would be Akers' last match in a world championship, as she slipped into a much-deserved retirement the following year just before the 2000 Sydney Olympics. But if there was ever a perfect way for a true champion to go out, it was from the top of the podium, even if she needed a little help getting up there.



▲ Kid's Dream

Mia Hamm's 20th minute goal against Nigeria (above) reversed the game's momentum and powered the United States to victory. Heather O'Reilly (right, at far left) takes in the USA vs. Norway match at the 1999 World Cup with friends.



THE U.S. WOMEN'S NATIONAL TEAM seemed a long way off for Heather O'Reilly as the 13-year-old carpoiled to East Rutherford, New Jersey, on June 19, 1999, to watch the USA play Denmark in the 1999 FIFA Women's World Cup. Around the time O'Reilly started to get serious about her future in soccer, the chance to watch her idols play up close developed a passion that would one day lead her to the same stage.

"When I was 13, I was just a dreamer. I was at the age when I was starting to separate myself from my peers in terms of how seriously I took soccer," O'Reilly said. "I was at the game with the East Brunswick Dynamite, my hometown club team, and we were just enjoying this amazing experience. As the game started, I did get emotional at one point, I think after Mia [Hamm] scored, because I thought, 'This is amazing, I would love to be down there. This is my dream.' I think that watching those women in 1999 was huge for me as a young player because it inspired me. I knew it would take a lot of work,

but I dedicated myself to training hard.

"Watching those women in 1999 built a fire in me. After that game, I spent hours in my garage working on juggling and knocking the ball off the wall. They were incredible. They were these strong, confident, relatable, approachable women that were incredibly good at what they did. They were just opening up America's eyes to women's soccer. I wanted to eventually be there, but didn't know if that dream for me would ever come true."

Three years later, after spending time with the Youth National Teams, O'Reilly's hard work began to pay dividends as she was called into training camp, at just 16 years old, with the Women's National Team. The dream was becoming a reality, and, in 2002, O'Reilly shared the field with several of her idols as she suited up for the Women's National Team for the first time.



Changing the Game

THE COMBINED ATTENDANCE for the six U.S. Women's National Team matches at the 1995 FIFA Women's World Cup in Sweden was 19,209. That's an average of just over 3,000 fans per game. Did anyone think that four years later, the USA would play in front of a crowd more than 25 times as large in only the first game of the 1999 Women's World Cup? Certainly not U.S. Soccer, when the organization of the tournament was just in its infancy. But a landmark Olympics for women's sports in 1996 changed that view and changed it quickly.

"Looking back at the 1999 FIFA Women's World Cup, it seems obvious that we would have staged the event at big stadiums in big cities across three time zones," said Marla Messing, the president and CEO of the Women's World Cup Organizing Committee, and the woman who wrote the business plan to 'go big.' "But at the time, this decision was truly a leap

of faith. FIFA had awarded the tournament to the United States based on a plan to hold the event in small stadiums along the East Coast. Keep in mind, the second Women's World Cup in Sweden in 1995 averaged overall just 4,316 fans per game. Moreover, women's sporting events in the United States had historically drawn sparse crowds."

The crowds at the Atlanta Olympics grew every match, from 25,303 to watch the opening game victory against Denmark, to 28,000 against Sweden in the second match, to 43,525 to finish the group against China. There were 64,196 watching the semifinal against Norway, followed by 76,489 fans who watched the gold medal game against China, a 2-1 U.S. victory. The final two games were played at Sanford Stadium in Athens, Georgia.

"The Atlanta Olympic Games was the maturing of Title IX, and that gave the 1999 Women's World Cup the ammunition to

go after the big stadiums for the event," said Donna de Varona, the chairman of the 1999 FIFA Women's World Cup Organizing Committee and a member of the board of directors for the 1994 FIFA World Cup. "Americans were hungry for pure sports, and we invested in our young women. The sound was different in the stadiums. It was young and it was passionate." Messing saw a history of Americans rallying behind big events and, taking advantage of a tremendous product that would appeal to sports fans of all ages and genders—a U.S. women's soccer team with star power, role models, and tremendously talented players—she led an organizing committee to produce a landmark event in women's sports history. The incredible outpouring of support caught even the players by surprise.

"Some of the best memories I have of the tournament are off the field," said U.S. defender Lorrie Fair, who was the young-



est player on that 1999 FIFA Women's World Cup team. "One of them was on the way to the opening match at the Meadowlands. The traffic on the Jersey Turnpike was incredible. We had another bus behind us, two highway patrol cars with us, and we were going down the shoulder. All of a sudden someone told us to look out the window—there were people hanging out of their sunroofs waving American flags and we realized that all that traffic was for us."

The crowd for the opening game at Giants Stadium was 79,972, the largest ever to watch a women's sporting event and the second-largest crowd ever at Giants Stadium, eclipsed only by the Pope John Paul II's visit in 1995. "Fans filled 70,000-seat football stadiums to cheer the increasingly beloved U.S. Women's National Team," said Messing. "America caught women's soccer fever, and every game drew record crowds. The USA's

inspirational championship game victory earned the covers of *TIME*, *Newsweek*, *Sports Illustrated* and *People* magazines. The standing-room-only crowds at Giants Stadium and the Rose Bowl represent a lasting legacy that fundamentally changed women's soccer, and perhaps women's sports, forever."



Brandi Chastain's winning penalty kick led to one of the sport's most iconic moments.





The United States captivated fans worldwide with its run to the quarterfinals. Clint Mathis (far left) opened the scoring against South Korea, converting a pass from John O'Brien (left).

2002 World Cup

LOCATION: KOREA/JAPAN

CHAMPION: BRAZIL

U.S. FINISH: QUARTERFINALS

USA-PORTUGAL 3-2 (O'BRIEN 4, OG 29, MCBRIDE 36)

USA-KOREA REPUBLIC 1-1 (MATHIS 24)

USA-POLAND 1-3 (DONOVAN 83)

USA-MEXICO 2-0 (MCBRIDE 8, DONOVAN 65)

USA-GERMANY 0-1

AN EXOTIC LOCATION. A challenging group that held a dark-horse favorite and the host nation. A shot at redemption after 1998. Against this backdrop—and with the shadow of 9/11 still in the hearts and minds of the world—the United States traveled to Korea in 2002 with a heavily experienced squad and some inspiring youngsters, all on a mission to achieve something remarkable.

The USA wasted little time making a statement. Minus team captain Claudio Reyna and starting two 20-year-olds, DaMarcus Beasley and Landon Donovan, the team jumped out to an early lead when John O'Brien scored just four minutes into the game against fifth-ranked Portugal. As the world looked on in stunned disbelief, an own goal and a terrific diving header from Brian McBride had the United States up 3-0 after 36 minutes. Portugal got two back, but veteran Cobi Jones showed his experience in helping the U.S. team snuff out the final quarter hour. The underdogs had snared an improbable victory.

Then, with more than 60,000 fans in the stadium and millions more waving the banner across the country, Korea welcomed the U.S. team to Daegu. Clint Mathis pulled off a flash of brilliance after getting on the end of a pass from O'Brien, and once again the Americans were on the board first. Brad Friedel proved the hero when he saved a penalty just before halftime, and while the Koreans leveled the score with 11 minutes left, the USA was thrilled to have four points from two extremely difficult matches.





Facing a Poland side with nothing to lose, the U.S. team fell flat in a 3–1 loss. However, a roar from the crowd late in the game indicated that Korea had scored on Portugal, and even before the final whistle blew, the American players and coaches knew they were on to the knockout stage. And as fate would have it, their opponent would also be their biggest rival.

In easily the biggest USA-Mexico game in the long rivalry, the teams squared off in Jeonju. With millions of fans waking up in the middle of the night to tune in, U.S. coach Bruce Arena deployed a 3-5-2 formation that placed Claudio Reyna out on the flank, a move that confounded the Mexicans. A lightning quick attack set up Brian McBride for the opening goal eight minutes in, and on the other side of halftime an end-to-end counter led to one of the most picturesque goals in U.S. history, Eddie Lewis delivering a perfect cross onto the head of Landon Donovan. The U.S. team walked off the field with what became a trademark 2–0 scoreline against Mexico, reaching the quarterfinals for the first time in 72 years.

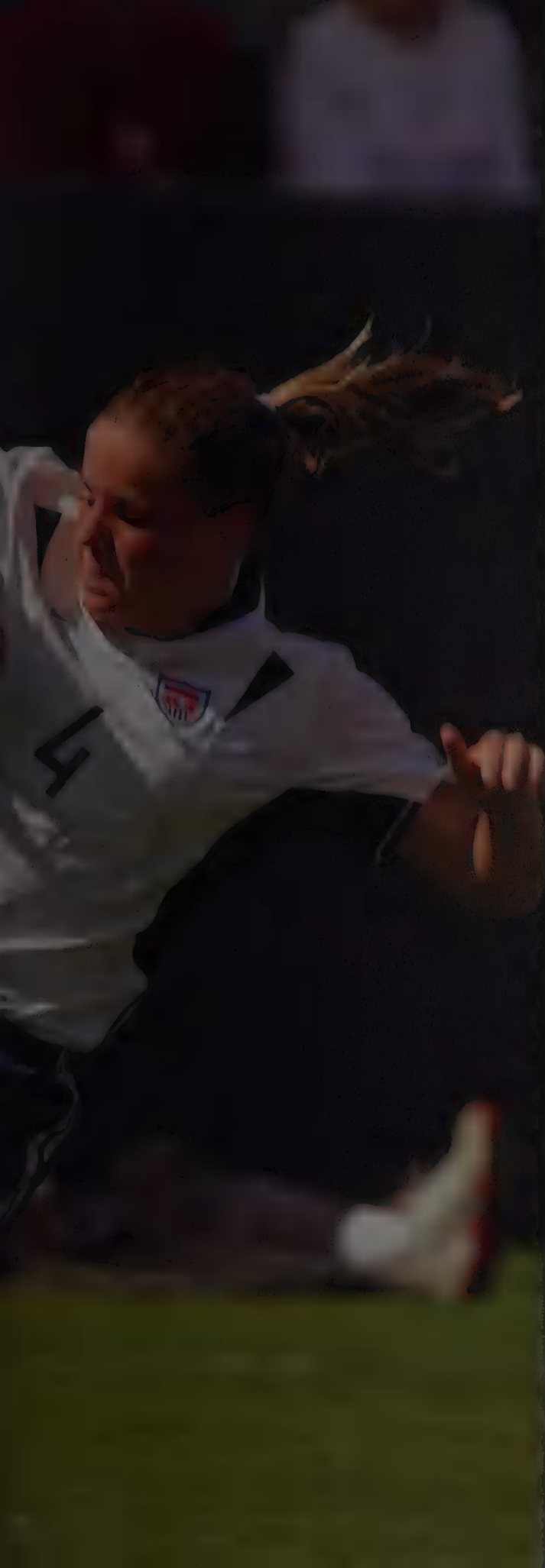
In their best performance of the tournament, the U.S. team spotted Germany a 1–0 lead and furiously sought the equalizer. Inexplicably denied a penalty when a Gregg Berhalter shot was blocked on the goal line by the arm of Torsten Frings, USA put together several great chances but couldn't find the breakthrough. Having outplayed the Germans, the U.S. team departed Korea with historic results and having captured the imagination of the American people. More important, they achieved a level of respect that would pave the way for a new generation of American players to move abroad and pursue their professional careers at the highest level.



Brian McBride's brilliant header against Portugal (top), and Landon Donovan's effort against Mexico from an Eddie Lewis pass (above right), were among many proud moments at the 2002 World Cup.







In 2003, the USA became the first nation to host a second Women's World Cup—this time on short notice. The fans and the nation again passionately embraced women's soccer.

2003 World Cup

LOCATION: USA

CHAMPION: GERMANY

U.S. FINISH: THIRD PLACE

USA-SWEDEN 3-1 (LILLY 27, PARLOW 36, BOXX 78)

USA-NIGERIA 5-0 (HAMM 6, 12, PARLOW 47, WAMBACH 65, FOU DY 89)

USA-KOREA DPR 3-0 (WAMBACH 17 PK, WHITEHILL 48, 66)

USA-NORWAY 1-0 (WAMBACH 24)

USA-GERMANY 0-3

USA-CANADA 3-1 (LILLY 22, BOXX 51, MILBRETT 80)

CONSIDERED ONE OF THE FAVORITES heading into the 2003 FIFA Women's World Cup, the defending champion U.S. team was pegged as the front-runner after the competition was moved from China to the United States because of the SARS virus outbreak.

After rolling through group play with a 3-0 record and 11-1 advantage in goal differential, the USA squeezed past rival Norway by a 1-0 margin in the quarterfinals on a goal from Abby Wambach. Then in Portland, Ore.—the only city in history to host a World Cup match in consecutive competitions—the U.S. team was shocked by Germany, who scored two injury-time goals in a 3-0 victory en route to being crowned world champion. The USA was relegated to the third-place game, where the Americans made quick work of northern neighbor Canada in a 3-1 game.

"I really enjoyed the 2003 Women's World Cup adventure," said former U.S. Soccer president Dr. Bob Contigulia. "We had let FIFA know that we were willing hosts if they couldn't go ahead with the planned tournament in China. So when we were designated on very short notice, we were ready. We didn't set up a separate entity to run it; the Federation voted to run it by itself, and we did. The MLS helped, and dozens of people and suppliers donated their expertise. Our women's team and our professional soccer community set standards for excellence. Look at the results: the whole world is now playing women's soccer and hosting big events."



2006 World Cup

LOCATION: GERMANY
CHAMPION: ITALY
U.S. FINISH: FIRST ROUND

USA-CZECH REPUBLIC 0-3
USA-ITALY 1-1 (OG 27)
USA-GHANA 1-2 (DEMPSEY 43)

WITH THE SUCCESS OF THE 2002 TEAM feeding expectations and vastly more pre-tournament attention, the U.S. team stared at the cold, hard reality of being drawn into the infamous "Group of Death" with the Czech Republic, the eventual world champion, Italy, and Ghana—the only group in the tournament with three teams ranked in the top 12 in the world.

The plan of the coaching staff from the outset was to be in a position to advance heading into the final group game. Things got off to a rocky start when the Czechs unleashed their explosive offense and scored three unanswered goals, leaving the USA with no points and a date with the highly rated Italians. Playing in front of a boisterous contingent of supporters in Kaiserslautern, the match had all the drama of an Italian opera. The U.S. team pressed the attack from the outset, yet the Italians were on the board first, by 22 minutes in. Five minutes later they conceded an own goal, and then saw straight red when Daniele De Rossi elbowed Brian McBride in the face and opened up a huge gash. The USA was reduced to 10 men just before the break, when Pablo Mastroeni was sent off, then suffered another blow two minutes into second half when Eddie Pope was dismissed. Playing with nine men on the pitch, the U.S. team defended with courage and determination and walked off the field after 90 minutes with perhaps the greatest draw in team history.

"I was so proud of that team for what we were able to accomplish," said Landon Donovan. "With everything that happened from the

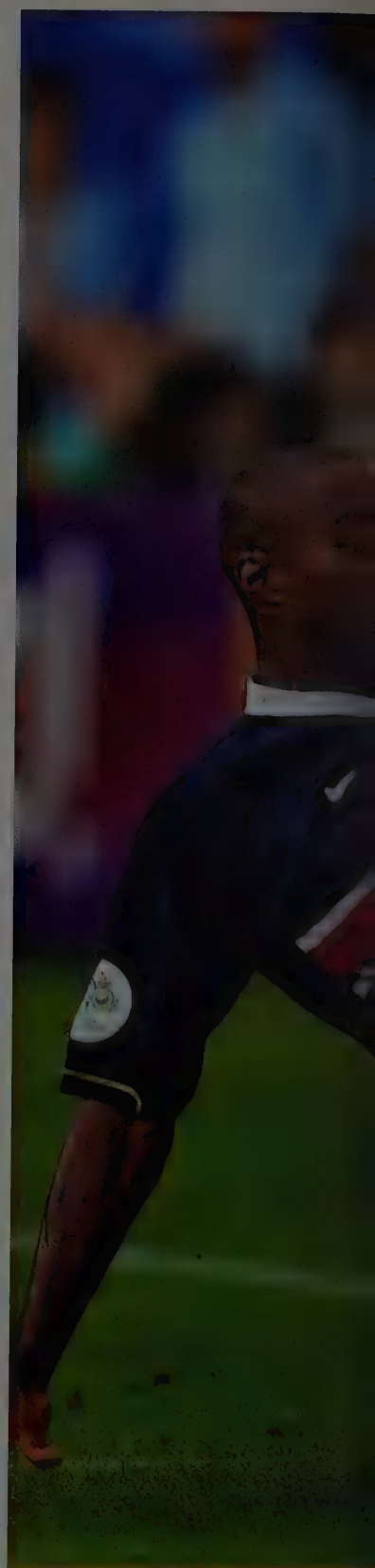
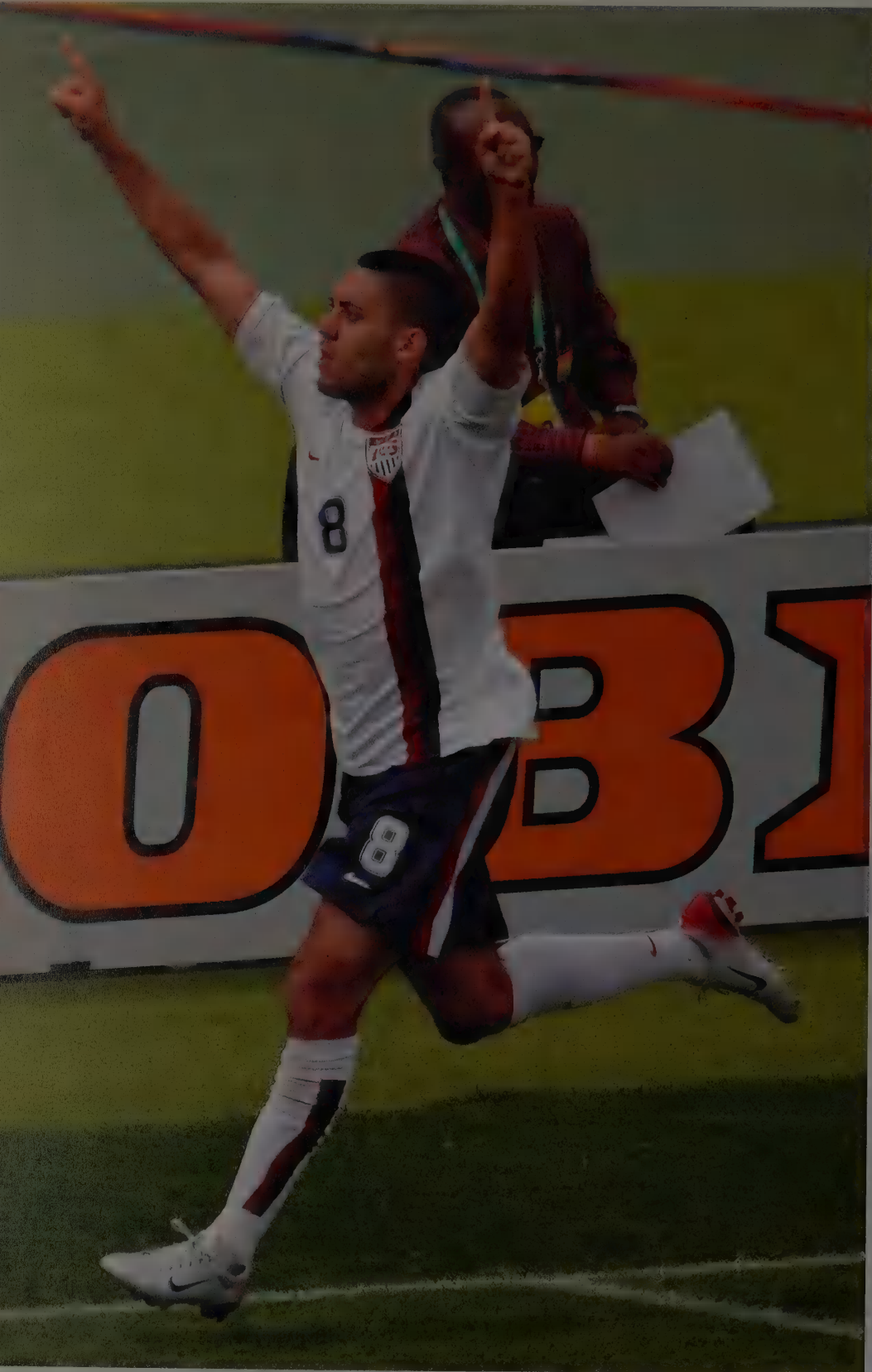
opening game to going down a man for the entire second half, we could easily have said this isn't our year, let's just give up and get on with it. But our guys fought and battled. In the end, we were the only team to get a point off the eventual champions."

"Our effort that day was unbelievable," said U.S. Men's National Team head coach Bruce Arena. "The game was simply about a gut check, and our guys played with great courage. The discipline we showed in the last 30 minutes was incredible. Given the circumstances, to get a point against the eventual world champion, Italy, was unbelievable and one of our great efforts of all time."

Needing a win to have a shot at advancing, the USA fell down a goal after 22 minutes when a rare miscue from Claudio Reyna led to a perfect finish by Ghana. Clint Dempsey got the U.S. back even with two minutes before the break, but for the second consecutive tournament a dubious call from the referee jeopardized the team's chance at moving on. Oguchi Onyewu was whistled for a penalty in first-half stoppage time, and Ghana converted. The lead proved insurmountable, yet the U.S. team left Germany knowing that, despite coming up short, they had competed well in a challenging group and once again garnered respect.

Brian McBride took an elbow from Italy's Daniele De Rossi, but stayed on for the epic 1-1 draw in Kaiserslautern.





Clint Dempsey (above) scored against Ghana, while Eddie Pope (above right) displayed his usual gritty and calm defensive style, and Landon Donovan (right) continued to show his world-class skills.





The Women's National Team continued their World Cup medal-winning streak in 2007. Lori Chalupny (above) scored two goals in the tournament and Shannon Boxx (right) added one against England.

2007 World Cup

LOCATION: CHINA

CHAMPION: GERMANY

U.S. FINISH: THIRD PLACE

USA-KOREA DPR 2-2 (WAMBACH 50, O'REILLY 69)

USA-SWEDEN 2-0 (WAMBACH 34, 58)

USA-NIGERIA 1-0 (CHALUPNY 1)

USA-ENGLAND 3-0 (WAMBACH 48, BOXX 57, LILLY 60)

USA-BRAZIL 0-4

USA-NORWAY 4-1 (WAMBACH 30, 46, CHALUPNY 58, O'REILLY 59)

THE 2007 FIFA WOMEN'S WORLD CUP was played in front of large crowds in China, a country that had waited years to host the tournament for the second time after the 2003 FIFA Women's World Cup had been moved to the United States.

The U.S. team won what was widely considered one of the most difficult groups in Women's World Cup history, earning a draw in the opening game against Korea (2-2) and wins against Sweden (2-0) and Nigeria (1-0). The USA picked up a convincing victory in the quarterfinal, dispatching England 3-0—but the semifinal proved much more difficult.

The USA lost Shannon Boxx to a controversial red card in the first half and eventually fell 4-0 to Brazil, suffering the worst loss in its history. The USA was relegated to the third-place match but rebounded with a resounding 4-1 victory to take the bronze medal as Abby Wambach scored twice and Lori Chalupny and Heather O'Reilly added a goal each. Team captain Kristine Lilly was named to the FIFA Women's World Cup All-Star Team and Wambach, with six goals, won the Silver Shoe as the second-highest scorer in the tournament.







2010 World Cup

LOCATION: SOUTH AFRICA
CHAMPION: SPAIN
U.S. FINISH: ROUND OF 16

USA-ENGLAND 1-1 (DEMPSEY 40)
USA-SLOVENIA 2-2 (DONOVAN 48, BRADLEY 82)
USA-ALGERIA 1-0 (DONOVAN 90+1)
USA-GHANA 1-2 AET (DONOVAN 63)

WITH A LIST OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS including the 2007 Gold Cup title, beating No.1-ranked Spain to reach the final of the 2009 FIFA Confederations Cup, and finishing first in the CONCACAF qualification matches, the United States entered the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa with optimism, chemistry, and a great commitment to one another and the cause.

After drawing 1-1 in the opening group match against England, the USA found itself staring at a 2-0 first-half deficit against Slovenia and the very real prospect of elimination. Displaying the trademark resolve and the ability to adjust at halftime that characterized Bob Bradley's team, the Americans rallied with goals from Landon Donovan and Michael Bradley and saw a third wrongly disallowed, earning a 2-2 draw and setting the table for the dramatic group finale against Algeria.

With a victory necessary to put the United States through to the Round of 16, the team came out the aggressors from the opening whistle. As the final minutes ticked off in the second half, the game turned into a wide-open affair as both teams abandoned all airs and went for goal. A quick outlet from Tim Howard in the second minute of stoppage time initiated what is now one of the most famous moments in U.S. soccer history, the sequence frozen in time as Landon Donovan finished off the counterattack, igniting outbursts

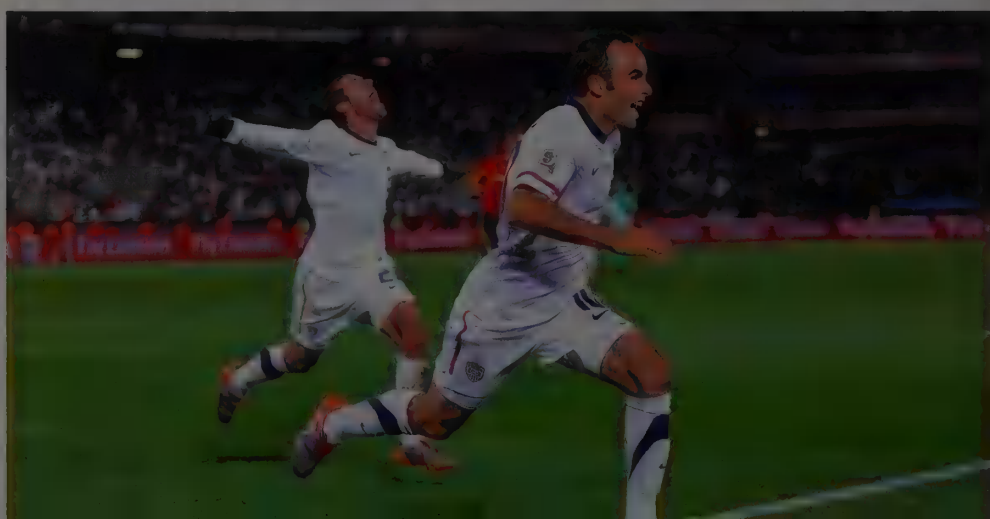
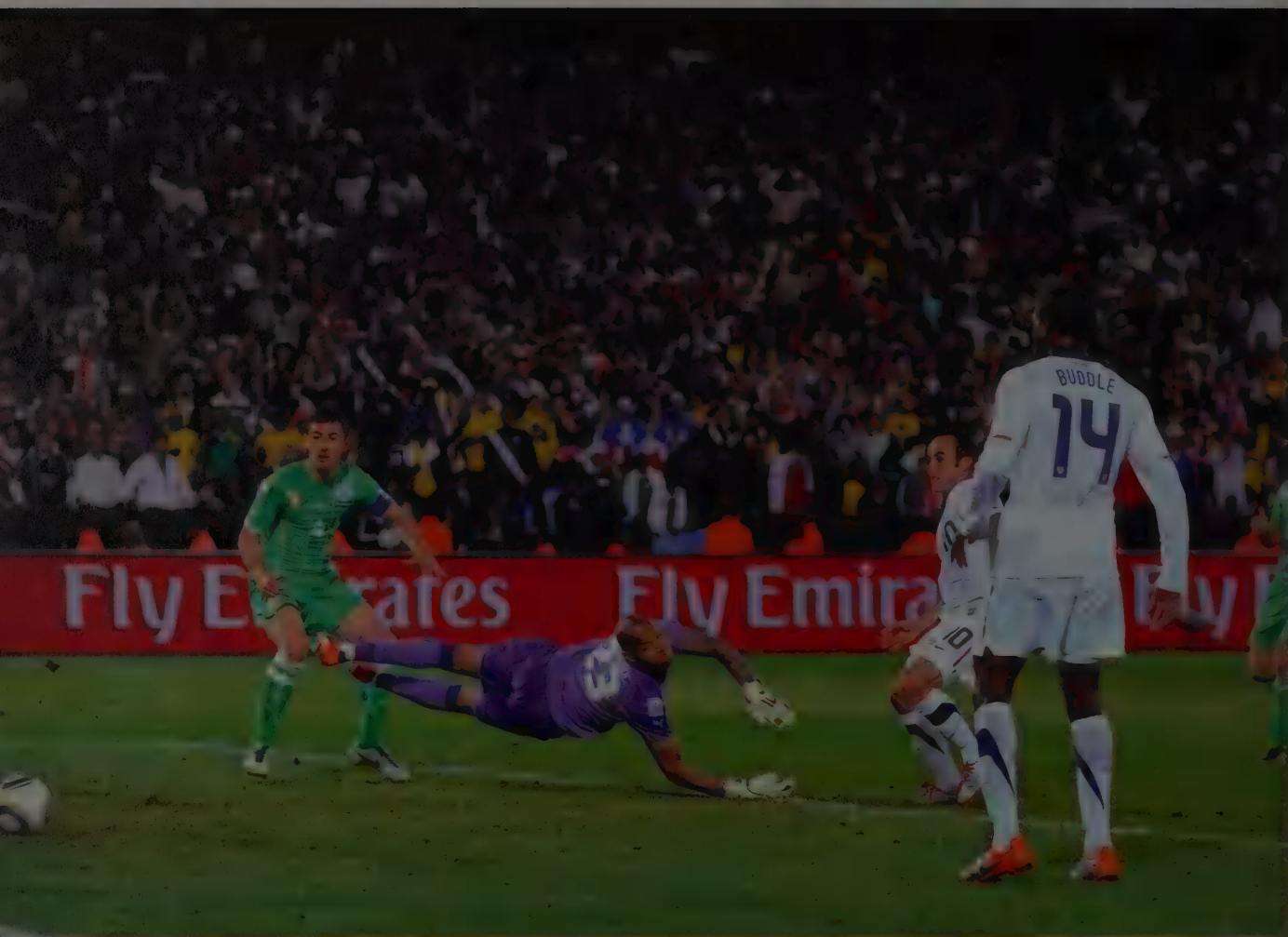
of joy that resonated from the pile-up near the corner flag to celebrations all across the United States. An instant iconic moment, that goal and win inspired a YouTube view that garnered millions of views and went on to win the ESPY award for Best Sports Moment of 2010.

After once again coming back from a deficit, the USA's dogged determination finally fell short in the overtime loss to Ghana in the Round of 16. But the skill, savvy, and all-out commitment of the team had left its mark, inspiring an already energized soccer nation while ushering in a whole new generation of fans to the sport.

The 2010 FIFA World Cup was one of extreme emotion. Clint Dempsey's shot that England's Robert Green mishandled (**near left**) started the journey with a 1-1 tie, while Landon Donovan's goal against Slovenia sparked a spirited comeback, culminating with a Michael Bradley strike and the "dogpile."



Tom Howard started the magical Algeria moment, throwing out to Donovan, who dribbled up the field before passing to Altidore in his right. Altidore served it in front of goal, where Dempsey's first touch was saved by the goalkeeper—but the ball came back to Donovan, who calmly finished into the open net. Feilhaber shares Donovan's celebration (below) before the entire team conducts their famous "dog pile" (opposite) in the corner.









2011 World Cup

LOCATION: GERMANY
CHAMPION: JAPAN
U.S. FINISH: SECOND PLACE

USA-KOREA DPR 2-0 (CHENEY 54, BUEHLER 76)
USA-COLUMBIA 3-0 (O'REILLY 12, RAPINOE 50, LLOYD 57)
USA-SWEDEN 1-2 (WAMBACH 67)
USA-BRAZIL 2-2 (OWN GOAL 2, WAMBACH 120+2) (5-3 PKS)
USA-FRANCE 3-1 (CHENEY 9, WAMBACH 79, MORGAN 82)
USA-JAPAN 2-2 (MORGAN 69, WAMBACH 104) (1-3 PKS)

THE 2011 FIFA WOMEN'S WORLD CUP was the best ever by many measurements: fan support, atmosphere, media attention, TV ratings, and, of course, the quality of play on the field. Germany put on a fantastic event in world-class stadiums, and competitive and entertaining matches impressed fans around the globe.

The USA rebounded from an opening-round loss to Sweden to defeat Brazil in an epic quarterfinal match that some say was the most exciting game in the history of the Women's World Cup. The USA played more than an hour with just 10 players, equalized in the 122nd minute of overtime on Abby Wambach's now-famous header off a Megan Rapinoe cross—which was the latest goal in Women's World Cup history—and then won the penalty-kick shootout.

"I launched it with all my might. There wasn't a lot of technique behind it—I just put all I had into that cross," said Rapinoe. "I didn't see Abby when I first kicked it. I just knew she was going to be there. She's always in the box. It happened so quickly, and then it was in the back of the net. I was running over there, but I was so far away

that I stopped halfway because I just had to start celebrating. I was 50 yards away by the time she got all the way to the corner. I was yelling so loud and aggressively that I got light-headed. Then I ran over to Abby and nearly knocked her over because I jumped on her without decelerating at all. It was just one of those amazing sports moments. I don't think I'll have another moment like that in my career."

"I started making a run and put my hand up," said Abby Wambach. "She just put this ball on my head. It took forever for the ball to get from her to me. Get over the defender's head, get over the goalkeeper's hands—that's what I was thinking. It did and I was wide open, and then I was thinking, 'Don't miss this.' It was close. Anything at that moment is possible. I didn't see it hit the back of the net, but I knew it went in when I heard the crowd."

The USA defeated France 3-1 in a hard-fought semifinal and would agonizingly fall to Japan in a second shootout in the World Cup Final. But the impact the tournament had on fans in the USA and around the world will be felt for years to come.

Abby Wambach heads home her dramatic last-second goal against Brazil to force overtime. The 122nd-minute goal was the latest in World Cup history.



A draining penalty kick victory over Brazil in the quarterfinals unleashed sheer joy for American soccer.

Abby Wambach, Megan Rapinoe, and Alex Morgan (left to right) celebrate Abby's late goal in the semifinal classic versus France.



Hope Solo (right) gave up only four goals from the run of play during the tournament, winning the Golden Glove.











**BIG GOALS,
BIG GAMES**



1989 FIFA World Youth Championship

A BIT LOST IN TIME is the fact the USA's fourth-place finish in the 1989 FIFA U-20 World Cup in Saudi Arabia—to date the best-ever finish in that tournament for a U.S. team—was as improbable as it was important in the history of U.S. Soccer.

Having not qualified out of the CONCACF, the Americans weren't even supposed to be there. Bob Gansler's side arrived as a last-minute replacement for the suspended Mexico (banned for using overage players in a youth competition) and clawed their way to the semifinal, finishing second in a group that included two-time winners Brazil, the formidable East Germans (who had finished third in 1987), and Mali. The USA tied Mali 1-1 in the tournament opener on a goal from Steve Snow, defeated the East Germans 2-0 on goals from Troy Dayak and Snow, and then lost to Brazil 3-1.

Back then, FIFA still awarded two points for a win and one for a tie, and the USA's three points were good enough to earn a quarterfinal berth against Iraq. Led by Kasey Keller in goal—who would win the Silver Ball as the second-best player in the tournament—the young Americans got goals from Chris Henderson and Dario Brose in the 2-1 victory at King Fahd Stadium, which paired them with Nigeria in the semifinal.

The U.S. team was a physically imposing team that was lightning quick on the break, and a Snow equalizer forced extra time after the match ended 1-1 in regulation. Nigeria would score just three minutes into the extra period and held on the rest of the way, but the USA was that close to making a World Cup Final.

"It was the first time a U.S. team got to the semifinal round of a FIFA competition," said Keller. "From there, Bob Gansler took over the National Team and qualified them for the World Cup for the first time in 40 years, so it was a big stepping stone and key tournament for U.S. Soccer. It was a lot of fun, and it was good group of guys that found a way to get some results. But there wasn't a ton of expectations, not like there is now when a team goes to a tournament. But someone had to be the first, and we were happy to do it."

The U.S. Under-20s arrived in Saudi Arabia (opposite, above right) not knowing what to expect, but the team—led by Kasey Keller in goal (opposite, below right)—went on a remarkable run to finish in fourth place.

BOB GANSLER, COACH of the 1989 U.S. U-20 Men's National Team, which took fourth place at the FIFA World Youth Championships and produced a wondrous talent pool of young men who went on to great soccer success:

"Ralph Perez and I picked that team on a rainy Thanksgiving weekend in St. Louis. We blended a younger group of guys with some of the older ones. Back then there wasn't the

sophisticated scouting systems we have today, but there was a tight group of coaches who all believed in the principles that Dettmar Cramer and Walt Chyzowich had instilled some years before. We were a close group, and I trusted these guys' opinions. Through this network, we knew as much about players' personalities as we did about their athletic ability.

"We still talk about those guys today. We had to be close

together in Saudi Arabia at that time. We couldn't go out on our own to walk around or relax. We were even tutors to the guys, who had brought their books with them—at least we tried to tutor them in the subjects we could handle! That team really came closest to maximizing its potential as any. It was because of the quality of person that each guy was."





USA vs. Trinidad & Tobago November 19, 1989

IT'S RARE THAT THE COURSE OF HISTORY is changed in a moment. But with one swing of the left leg of Paul Caligiuri, that's what happened on a bumpy field on a steamy afternoon in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, on November 19, 1989.

It was the final game of a grueling 10-game qualifying march to the 1990 World Cup in Italy, and the Americans had scored just nine goals in the previous nine matches. More than half of those came in one game, a 5–1 victory against Jamaica in the second game of qualifying. The USA was coming off consecutive 0–0 ties, against Guatemala at home and El Salvador on the road, and needed a win to qualify for a World Cup tournament for the first time in 40 years.

The stadium was jammed to the brim—a full six hours before the match—with Trinidadians who were swathed in red and poised for a celebration the likes of which the island had never seen. The match was played on a Sunday and the government had even declared the following Monday as a national holiday in celebration of qualifying for their first-ever World Cup. In the 30th minute, Caligiuri, who was playing midfield in that match, took a simple square pass from Tab Ramos, controlled the bouncing ball with his midsection, and ran toward goal. He took a big windup with his right leg, freezing a defender, cut the ball to the inside, and struck a left-footed half volley from about 30 yards that looped and dipped violently into the lower right corner for a goal. It has since been known as the second “shot heard round the world” in U.S. soccer history.

That goal was one of just five that Caligiuri scored for the National Team and, even though he also scored in the first match

of the 1990 World Cup, it was surely his most important. It's not a stretch to say it was the most important soccer goal in U.S. history. It started a U.S. run of six consecutive World Cup appearances through 2010, helping spur the kind of exponential growth of the game in the United States that was perhaps unthinkable 30 years ago.

“It was a stunning goal,” said long-time soccer broadcaster JP Dellacamera, who called the game from Port-of-Spain for ESPN. “To me, it's the goal that defined soccer in this country. If he didn't score there, if they didn't win there, I don't think everything else that's happened would have happened quite the same way.”

The USA clawed its way back to the World Cup with a dramatic 1–0 away win versus Trinidad & Tobago. All the men who lined up that day went on to Italia '90 to carry the American colors at a World Cup for the first time in 40 years. Paul Caligiuri (above left) was the man of the day, and the Trinidad fans' hopes were dashed.



**Vanole Penalty Kick
Save Paves Path
Toward '90 World Cup**

FOR ALL THE DESERVED GLAMOUR of Paul Caligiuri's historic 1989 strike against Trinidad and Tobago, it should not be lost in the shuffle that his former UCLA teammate was responsible for that scenario existing in the first place.

About eight months before Caligiuri catapulted the U.S. team into its first FIFA World Cup in 40 years, 26-year-old goalkeeper David "Dino" Vanole made the most important save of his international career when he stopped a lethal penalty-kick strike against Costa Rica's Mauricio Montero. Vanole was an energetic, aggressive, and flamboyant personality both on and off the field. Former UCLA head coach Sigi Schmid coined his nickname "Dino" in reference to Italy goalkeeper Dino Zoff, who displayed a similar fierceness.

Heading into the USA's World Cup qualifying matches against Costa Rica in 1989, anything less than a win would have put the U.S. in a serious hole among the CONCACAF field, but Tab Ramos did his part in supplying a 1-0 lead in the 72nd minute. With Vanole and the U.S. defense clinging to the one-goal lead in the waning minutes, Costa Rica's Alvaro Solano had an open net and U.S. defender Steve Trittschuh had to stop the ball with his hands at the goal line to sacrifice a penalty kick. That set the stage for Vanole against Costa Rica's brawny defender Montero.

Before the kick, Vanole stared Montero down and tried to get in his head. Rather than commit to diving in one direction, Vanole held his ground and Montero's shot went straight at Vanole's neck "at about 100 miles per hour," Vanole recalled. Costa Rica had a rebound that sailed away from the goal and could not capitalize on a corner-kick chance in stoppage time as the USA held on for the win.





Bruce Murray celebrates as Paul Caligiuri calmly returns to the center circle after scoring the goal that was the USA's ticket to Italia '90. The post-game celebrations were memorable.



1991 CONCACAF Gold Cup

ONE YEAR REMOVED FROM its first FIFA World Cup appearance in 40 years, the U.S. Men's National Team underwent a renewal with new head coach Bora Milutinovic. Arriving after a stint as the Mexico National Team coach, Milutinovic sought to transform the U.S. style into a more fluid, quick-passing dynamic, and with that, he made numerous changes to the roster from the previous years, which had been under the direction of Lothar Osiander and Bob Gansler.

"He came with a clean slate and took a bunch of new players and pulled some players from indoor soccer," said midfielder Chris Henderson. "Really, it was a new U.S. National Team. It was an opportunity for all of us to prove that we could play with any team in our region, and this was the stage to do it."

Playing on American soil, the Men's National Team kicked off the tournament on a roll, winning all three group stage games while scoring eight goals and conceding just three in the process. The new system was working and the players were buying in. "The first group game in the Rose Bowl against Trinidad and Tobago, I just felt like it was a game where it was clicking and we felt we dominated that game," said Henderson. "I think that was a really big win for us, and the fashion in which the game played out was really good for our confidence. We were getting a lot of attention in the media for the style we played."

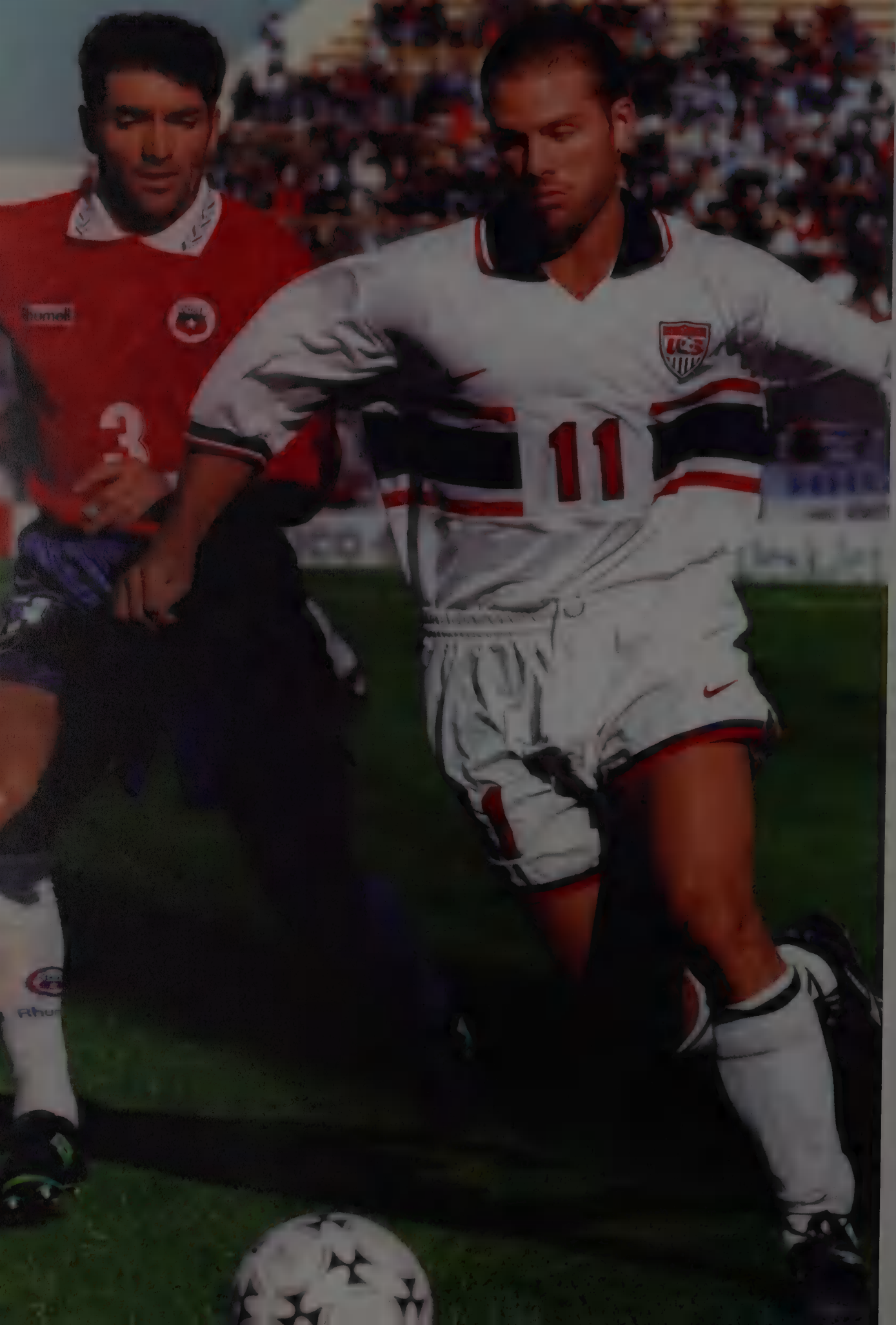
The U.S. team ran into Mexico in the tournament's semifinals and came away with a thrilling 2-0 win on a pair of second-half goals by John Doyle and Peter Vermes, setting up a chance for the team to capture its first Gold Cup title against Honduras. "At that point it was the biggest game we had played," said Henderson. "You're playing your neighbors below, and we hadn't had any good results against Mexico. I think it was a shock for them and a huge confidence boost for us. That game felt like the final for us because we knew what it meant to Bora—we knew what it meant for U.S. Soccer. Everyone came to play. That was a big, defining moment for us."

The final against Honduras went scoreless for 120 minutes in front of 39,873 fans at the Memorial Coliseum in Los Angeles and, dramatically, needed to go to penalty kicks to decide the champion. Tied 3-3 in penalties, Gold Cup MVP Tony Meola turned away a Honduras effort, opening the door for Fernando Clavijo to convert the game-winning penalty. Clavijo did and the U.S. team lifted its first Gold Cup trophy in thrilling fashion.

Playing on home soil, the United States won the inaugural CONCACAF Gold Cup. Eric Wynalda (above) starred at the tournament. Coming on the heels of the team's appearance in the 1990 World Cup, the Gold Cup championship was recognized as a significant achievement.









Eric Wynalda (*opposite*) led the way with three goals and a critical tiebreaker penalty kick as the USA went to the semifinals. The team's success was front-page news throughout the soccer world—including, albeit begrudgingly, the local press.

1995 Copa America

COMING OFF HOSTING the 1994 FIFA World Cup, the United States had a confident swagger heading into Copa America in 1995. The players felt they could make a strong run in the tournament, and they did not disappoint with a fourth-place performance—a surprising result, it was felt, among many onlookers at the time. The big statement match of the event was the USA's 3–0 victory against defending champion Argentina on July 14, 1995. Frank Klopas, who had 12 goals during his national team tenure, had the game-winning goal, and defender Alexi Lalas and forward Eric Wynalda put the match out of reach with tallies of their own. “There were people there and here who were surprised at how well an American team was doing,” Klopas said. “We loved the challenge. We wanted to play against the best, compete, and do well. There was a belief in the group to show everyone that soccer in this country was coming along, even though there was no professional league.”

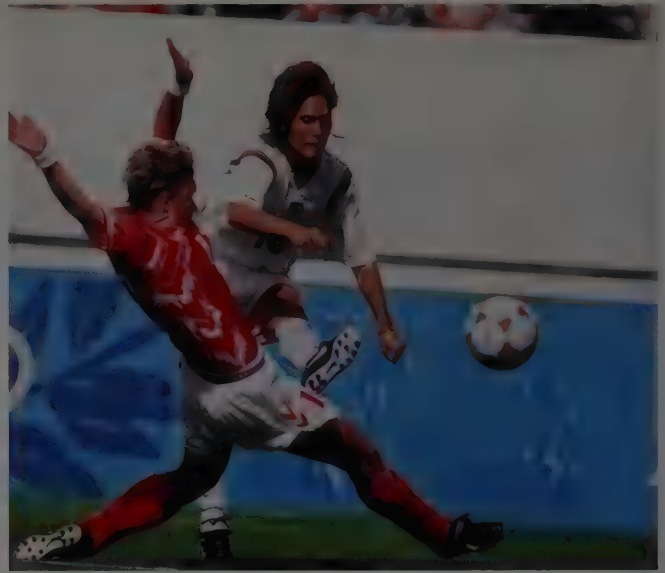
Klopas gave the U.S. team the 1–0 lead, after Cobi Jones and an Argentina defender fought for the ball and it deflected toward the top of the box, where Klopas struck with his right foot from 16 yards and placed the ball into the right side of the net. Lalas added a goal inside the near-right post off a Jones assist from the end line, and Wynalda capped off the scoring with a sliding tap-in for the three-goal lead. The U.S. team won Group C with a 2–0–1 record and held the edge over Argentina in goal differential. “We felt that anytime we played teams like Argentina, all of the pressure was on the other team,” Klopas said. “The result was a special one—one that you don’t forget. It was a historical and special moment.”

The victory carried over to the quarterfinal round, in which the USA and Mexico played a scoreless match in regulation and the U.S. prevailed 4–1 in a shootout. Klopas again played a big role with the clinching fourth goal after Wynalda, Joe-Max Moore, and Paul Caligiuri each converted on their attempts. Mexico’s goalkeeper was Jorge Campos, a one-time Klopas teammate on the Chicago Fire of Major League Soccer. “I’m just happy that I was able to score

against Campos,” Klopas said. “I made sure that he knew how happy I was when we played together in 1998. . . . I have replayed that goal to Campos several times.”

The U.S. advanced to the semifinals, but fell 1–0 to Brazil and then ran into a talented Colombia side en route to a 4–1 loss in the third-place game. Of the three times the U.S. team has been a part of Copa America (1993, 1995, and 2007), the 1995 tournament is, hands down, the United States’ strongest showing.

In 1996 the Atlanta Olympic Games welcomed women's soccer, and Tisha Venturini-Hoch, Julie Foudy, and Mia Hamm (left to right) dazzled the crowds.



1996 Olympics

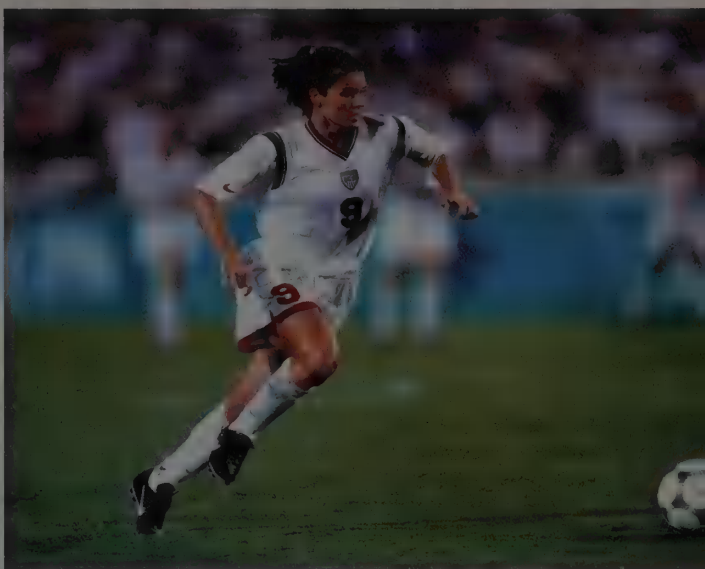
THE 1996 OLYMPICS WERE THE FIRST TO FEATURE women's soccer and the U.S. team made history by winning the first Olympic gold medal awarded in the sport. The tournament also pushed women's soccer into both national and international spotlights for the first time.

"It was the first year for women's soccer as an Olympic sport, and we had all moved into Fla. for residency in early January," said Shannon MacMillan. "There was such an amazing team chemistry, and there was also a feeling of newness to it all. We had no idea of the scope of what we were doing. We were just playing soccer and excited to be in our first Olympics, which we had always dreamed of being a part of. We were excited to be living out our dreams together."

"We had never had that before," said Tiffeny Milbrett. "It was a lovely experience because it was the first time going through the Olympics. You knew that you could win a medal, but you didn't know what that experience felt like. It was a beautifully naïve time. We worked hard and knew we wanted to win, but in reality you truly didn't know what that felt like because we had never been in an Olympics before, and we had never won a medal. Leading up to that Olympic Games and even winning and enjoying that experience for the first time was amazing."

A crowd of more than 25,000 watched the USA's 3-0 opening game victory against Denmark in Orlando, Fla., and that swelled to more than 76,000 by the time the U.S. downed China, 2-1, in the championship game, on goals from MacMillan and Milbrett in Athens, Georgia. "I think I probably jumped about 30 feet in the air [after scoring in the gold medal game], at least it felt like it," said MacMillan. "It was the culmination of us putting our lives on hold to go chase this dream. For me personally, to know I went from being cut from the team to making the team to starting, and scoring and helping the team succeed is incredibly hard to put into words."





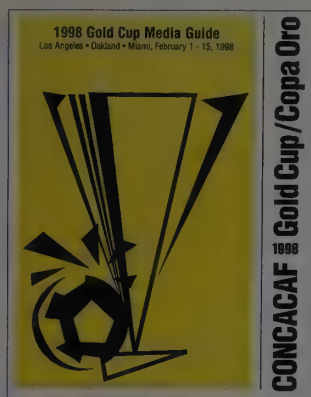




and Kattman helped the
USA's 1998 World Cup
qualifying run.

Preki's goal gave the USA an historic 1-0 win over Brazil and put the Americans into the final for the third time in four Gold Cups.





1998 CONCACAF Gold Cup

THE UNITED STATES WON the CONCACAF Gold Cup four times from 1991 through 2011, but one of the team's most historic victories came in a tournament in which the United States did not win the crown.

In the semifinals of the 1998 CONCACAF Gold Cup, the U.S. ran into a Brazil team that was 7-0-0 against the Americans all-time and was in the midst of a seven-year stretch as the world's top-ranked FIFA team. Thanks to goalkeeper Kasey Keller's rock-solid performance and a Preki goal in the 65th minute, the USA beat Brazil for the first time on February 10, 1998, at the Memorial Coliseum in Los Angeles.

Preki, who scored the game-winning goal three nights earlier for a 2-1 victory against Costa Rica, was up to the task once again in the Gold Cup semifinals. He came off the bench against Brazil and launched a left-footed strike from nearly 25 yards out that found the inside of the left frame for a one-goal lead. That proved to be enough for Keller, who had a career performance from start to finish as he made 10 saves in a variety of fashions, whether he was diving or using his body. It was a standout clean sheet for Keller's 15-year tenure with the U.S. Men's National Team, as he would go on to a U.S.-record 47 shutouts. "I think it has to rate as the single greatest performance by a goalkeeper in the history of U.S. soccer, certainly since I've been with the National Team," U.S. head coach Steve Sampson said afterward. "Kasey showed he is one of the finest goalkeepers in the world. He was brilliant."

Brazil's Romario was the main instigator that day, with three shots in particular that Keller saved against him at point-blank range. Romario was so impressed with Keller's performance he said this after the match: "That was the greatest performance I have ever seen in a goalkeeper. It was an honor to be on the field with him. I take the blame. But that goalkeeper was incredible."

The 1998 Gold Cup featured a 10-team field and the United States won Group C with victories against Cuba and Costa Rica. The first game against Cuba, a 3-0 win, included second-half goals from Roy Wegerle, Eric Wynalda, and a Joe-Max Moore penalty kick. Eddie Pope and Preki provided the offense for a 2-1 win against Costa Rica. Following the impressive victory against Brazil, which also was a U.S.-record sixth straight win, the United States advanced to the final against Mexico on February 15. A 43rd-minute header from Luis Hernandez, held up as his fourth goal of the tournament, led Mexico to the 1-0 victory against USA in front of beyond-capacity 91,255 spectators at the Memorial Coliseum.



1999 FIFA U-17 World Championship

THE U.S. TEAM AT THE 1999 FIFA U-17 WORLD CUP in New Zealand was arguably the best youth team in U.S. history. Featuring a talented roster of players including Landon Donovan, DaMarcus Beasley, Bobby Convey, Oguchi Onyewu, and Kyle Beckerman, the USA came within one missed penalty kick of making the World Cup Final.

That U.S. team was the first group of players to go through Residency Training Camp in Bradenton, Florida, under head coach John Ellinger, and the squad produced some tremendously exciting attacking soccer. The USA won Group A by defeating host New Zealand in the first match, 2-1, coming from a goal down to win on scores from Abe Thompson and Donovan. The Americans then came from a goal down again to tie Poland, 1-1, on an 89th-minute penalty kick from Donovan before defeating Uruguay 1-0 to finish first-round play on a goal from Onyewu. And in the quarterfinal, the USA gloriously defeated Mexico, giving up a goal in just the second minute before storming back with three in an 11-minute span at the end of the first half and beginning of the second. The USA got goals from Beasley, Jordan Cila, and Beckerman to eventually win 3-2 after goalkeeper D.J. Countess saved a penalty kick.

In the semifinal against Australia, which of course was playing close to home, the USA once again started slowly, giving up yet another 2nd-minute goal and then another in the 35th minute. Donovan got the team back on track, pulling a goal back just a minute later, and Onyewu tied it in the 52nd. The match went scoreless through the 30-minute period of extra time and was decided in penalty kicks. The teams went eight-deep on the spot kicks with Beasley and USA's Kenny Cutler missing, putting the U.S. team into the third-place match against Ghana. A 2-0 loss to the Africans did not put a damper on the USA's best-ever finish in the tournament and the launching of the international careers of several players, including Donovan and Beasley, who would play

key roles during the team's run to the quarterfinals just three years later at the 2002 FIFA World Cup in South Korea/Japan. "We had a pretty good unbeaten streak going against international competition heading into the World Cup, which was great preparation and provided the team with a lot of confidence that we could do well in New Zealand," said U-17 MNT head coach John Ellinger. "We also had gone to New Zealand in December of 1998, winning the international tournament, which made us very comfortable when we came back. We just enjoyed the environment, the players' confidence level obviously was high, and Landon scored a ridiculous amount of goals in that tournament."



THE TOURNAMENT was the only one in FIFA history in which the top two individual awards went to American players, with Donovan winning the Golden Ball as the best player in the competition and Beasley winning the Silver Ball (receiving their awards, above, from FIFA President João Havelange, far left, and Sir Bobby Charlton, far right). "We had played a bunch of games against youth national teams from other parts of the world and we had this feeling that we could really compete with any team," said Donovan. "Whether that was real or not, who knows? But we really had this mentality that we were good enough. We sort of had a brash, carefree belief that we could beat teams. Maybe it was a little naïve, but I think it helped us. One slogan we always had from Ellinger was, 'Respect everyone you play, but don't fear anybody'—so let's go for it and try to do it. And that's what we did."





2000 Olympics

AS THEY DID IN 1996, the U.S. Women had a strong run to the medal stand in 2000, winning the “Group of Death,” which included China, Nigeria, and Norway. In the eight-team tournament, the USA played all three of its group matches at the famed Melbourne Cricket Ground, and its opening game’s 2–0 victory against 1995 FIFA Women’s World Cup champion Norway on goals from Tiffany Milbrett and Mia Hamm made the Americans a strong favorite.

The USA then drew with China 1–1 as Julie Foudy scored and then defeated Nigeria 3–1 on goals from Brandi Chastain, Kristine Lilly, and Shannon MacMillan to win the group. The U.S. team then edged Brazil 1–0 in the semifinal on a goal from Hamm, one of the most important of her career, but fell in the gold medal match 3–2 to a spunky Norwegian team on a controversial “golden goal.”

In the championship game, in front about 23,000 fans at the Sydney Football Stadium, Milbrett staked the USA to a 1–0 lead early. Norway came back with two goals to take the lead before Milbrett dramatically tied the game on one of the last touches of the game, heading home a Hamm cross with just seconds left in regulation. The U.S. team seemingly had the momentum, but Norway scored early in sudden death overtime, when star forward Dagny Mellgren knocked the ball forward with her forearm before finishing past Siri Mullinix to give the Americans the silver medal.

Mia Hamm and Brandi Chastain (right) helped lead the USA to the women’s final. The U-23 Men’s National Team fought to the semifinals by beating Japan in a penalty shootout (above).





USA Reaches the Medal Round of the 2000 Olympics

THE U.S. UNDER-23 MEN'S NATIONAL TEAM and its three overage players put together its strongest Olympic run in the 2000 Sydney Games. Never before had a U.S. team reached the medal round, but the 2000 squad accomplished this feat in Australia, thanks to a four-game unbeaten run that reached the semifinals. The clincher to advance to the medal round came on September 23 as the U.S. team played Japan 2-2 through regulation and won 5-4 on penalty kicks in the quarterfinals.

Regulation was an uphill battle for the USA as the team trailed twice in the match. Josh Wolff scored a 68th-minute equalizer, but Japan's Naohiro Takahara responded four minutes later for a 2-1 lead. In the dying moments, Peter Vagenas tied the score at 2-2 on a dramatic penalty kick to force overtime. Both sides had tired legs through the additional 30 minutes, but the U.S. shone in

the shootout by converting all five of its attempts, with Sasha Victorine posting the winner.

"I had come out of the game with cramps, so I'm trying to run down to the pile with my shoes off and cramps in both calves," U.S. defender John O'Brien said. "I got there eventually."

The U.S. fell 3-1 to 2000 silver medalist Spain in the semifinals and was paired up against Chile in the bronze medal match on September 29 in front of more than 26,000 spectators at Sydney Football Stadium. Both sides were level for nearly 70 minutes until Chile's Ivan Zamorano took over with two late goals for a 2-0 victory. The USA had to settle for fourth place, but in the grand scheme of the tournament, it was new territory for the program.

"There was a big difference between finishing in third place and getting a bronze medal and finishing fourth and getting nothing," O'Brien said. "There

was a sense of desperation in really wanting to get a medal. We definitely thought we had a chance against Chile, so it was a big sense of loss. Once we had time to look back on it, we were pretty proud of how we played as a group."

The USA relied on some veteran leadership on the defense with goalkeeper Brad Friedel manning the net and defenders Jeff Agoos and Frankie Hejduk patrolling the backline. Off the field, the younger players certainly soaked up Hejduk's colorful persona.



USA vs. Mexico February 28, 2001

FOR YEARS, A MEETING WITH REGIONAL RIVAL Mexico on “home soil” was anything but for the United States. U.S. Soccer had often used the games against El Tri as much-needed paydays that would attract massive crowds largely in support of the visitors, sacrificing home-field advantage for the greater good. With the opening game of Final Round qualification matches for the 2002 FIFA World Cup, that equation changed forever, and kick-started a decade of dominance for the U.S. in this biggest of matchups.

Marking a fundamental change in approach that placed winning over any other consideration, the Federation chose Ohio’s Columbus Crew Stadium as the venue for the home fixture against Mexico on February 28, 2001. Built in 1999 with a capacity shy of 25,000, this midwestern hamlet offered a great opportunity for a pro-U.S. crowd. Moreover, the weather at that time of year tended to be on the chilly side—certainly not a comfortable environment for the Mexicans.

With a game-time temperature of 29 degrees Fahrenheit, the throngs of U.S. supporters in the sold-out crowd that braved the conditions did not have a chance to watch the Mexican team warm up, because they never came out of the locker room! Wearing jackets and gloves as they entered the field, it was clear that the conditions had already provided the Americans with a psychological edge. But it was the U.S. team that suffered the first setbacks, and it wasn’t on the scoreboard. A nasty collision forced Brian McBride off the pitch early, and then team captain Claudio Reyna had to depart with a hamstring injury before halftime. The score stood level at that point, but that was about to change in a big way. Josh Wolff and Clint Mathis—the subs that had replaced the injured starters—hooked up two minutes into the second half with an opportunistic through

ball from Mathis that send Wolff off to the races. With Mexican ‘keeper Jorge Campos charging outside the area, Wolff beat him to the punch and dribbled alone on goal before netting the opener. “It was a bit of a broken play,” recalled Wolff. “Having known Clint and playing with him for a while, there was certainly an understanding between both of us as far as that when plays turn over—if there is some space—to try and take advantage of it. Clint’s ball over the top was sensational and put their backs under pressure, and the goalie Jorge Campos came up and tried to make a play on it. It was a bit of a foot race. We got on the end of it. I think two guys on the same page in a real tight moment allowed us to get behind them and get the goal that spurred us on.”

With three minutes to go, Wolff pulled off a bit of magic near the sideline, escaping two defenders and then teeing up Earnie Stewart for the USA’s second goal and a 2–0 scoreline that would become a trademark of big U.S. victories against Mexico. The victory was the USA’s first against Mexico in the World Cup qualification matches since 1980, and established Crew Stadium as the favored host of this fixture. More important, the win cemented the team’s confidence that, in all ways, the home-field advantage now belonged to the United States.

“I don’t think anyone really knew what to expect,” said Wolff. “It was the first time we got Mexico in a real pro-American environment, and that was certainly the beginning of a real movement in soccer in the United States. Obviously we had a soccer-specific stadium for us in Columbus and the atmosphere was great. It was loud, it was cold, and it was certainly everything Mexico didn’t want. We came out and did the business, but it was a real turning point for us, both against Mexico and how our prior games with them had transpired.”



*Chavez's jump left
 the defense, and he
 took a shot that
 went in. And he
 was the hero.*





USA vs. Jamaica October 7, 2001

THE SCENE COULDN'T HAVE BEEN ANY STARKER for the U.S. Men's National Team on October 7, 2001, and in ways that extended well beyond the playing field. The U.S. team entered Match Day 9 of the Final Round of qualification matches for the 2002 FIFA World Cup in fourth place—essentially on the outside looking in. A win against Jamaica was the only result that could keep the USA's hopes of advancing alive, but there was another scenario that would qualify the team, albeit improbable as it would only work if the precise results went their way. In addition to three points, the U.S. needed Mexico and Costa to draw and for Trinidad and Tobago—having earned only one point in the final round—to win against a Honduras team that had not lost at home.

As they prepared to become the first U.S. team to represent the country following 9/11, word came that military action was commencing in Afghanistan. The match was moved off network television as coverage of the war began, and U.S. head coach Bruce Arena was left with the decision of whether to inform the team what was going on outside the walls of Massachusetts's Foxboro Stadium as they geared up for the most important game of their careers. Ultimately, he chose to tell them, reminding them that theirs was only a game, and that they should be proud to be wearing the same colors as the men and women who were now being put in harm's way to defend the nation.

The U.S. got a dream start when Joe-Max Moore, playing in front of his home New England Revolution fans, glanced in a header after four minutes. Jamaica equalized. Meantime in Tegucigalpa, Stern John scored in the 61st minute to give the Soca Warriors of T&T a 1-0 lead. With about 10 minutes left on the clock, a young Landon Donovan was bladed to the ground in the penalty area, and the referee immediately pointed to the spot. With the weight of the team and soccer fans across the country on his shoulders, Moore

stood over the ball. The tension was thick, the moment frozen in time.

"At that point we hadn't been told what was happening in the other game," said Moore. "I didn't realize how big a PK that actually was. Maybe that was a good thing. What usually happens was Bruce would have specifics on who was taking PKs. I didn't remember that I was the designated player to take the PK. I just looked around and no one was stepping up, so I just jumped on it and took the responsibility."

Moore converted to give the U.S. a 2-1 win, and with Mexico and Costa Rica drawing, it was all down to Trinidad, who at the moment maintained a grip on its slender lead. Players huddled around a radio in the middle of the field with reports coming in from Honduras, while the crowd waited expectantly to find out if they were witnessing history. The call finally came through, setting off jubilant celebrations from the team as they charged toward the supporters' section behind the goal, and only then did the announcement come over the PA system. On this most solemn of days, the U.S. Men's National Team had done their nation proud.

Joe-Max Moore (opposite) scored twice and John O'Brien (above right) was a playmaking factor in the first post-9/11 match by a team representing the USA.





2002 FIFA U-19 Women's World Championship

IN THE FIRST FIFA TOURNAMENT for Under-19s, the U.S. Under-19 Women's National Team achieved one of the most historic victories in U.S. soccer history, defeating host Canada 1-0 on September 1, 2002, in front of 47,784 fans at Commonwealth Stadium in Edmonton, Alberta, to win the 2002 FIFA Under-19 Women's World Championship.

This unique group of teenagers represented the first young women in U.S. history to have the opportunity of playing in a sanctioned FIFA world championship. They embraced that challenge, played the semifinal and championship game in front of massive crowds and a worldwide TV audience, and came out champions, showing that it's possible for all young girls in the United States to look forward to being a world champion.

On the field, the young U.S. players had to maintain their composure in the championship game, played in front of a pro-Canadian crowd awash with red-and-white flags. Substitute Megan Kakadelas created the winning goal by curving a cross on the ground into the penalty area late in overtime. The ball was kept alive by a darting Heather O'Reilly, who crashed into a defender on a hard near-post run. The ball squirted across the goalmouth to U.S. captain Lindsay Tarpley, who pounded a shot into the net from close range to end the game.

With the win, the U-19s added another first to the glorious history of the U.S. Women's National Team program, which claimed the first Women's World Cup and the first Olympic gold medal for women's soccer. Tarpley was awarded with the Bronze Boot as the third leading scorer in the tournament, with six goals, while Kelly Wilson earned the Silver Boot as the tournament's second leading scorer, with nine goals in just five games. Wilson also picked up the Bronze Ball as the third most valuable player in the tournament.

"The journey not only made us better players, but it showed us that great things can be accomplished through hard work, love, and belief," said Tarpley, who two years later would score for the USA in the Olympic gold medal match. "Over the last two years, we've had some amazing times on the soccer field, but it's the friendships we'll carry forever. I know we will look back 20 years from now with the same feelings for each other that we have now. We'll remember the day we became world champions together."

Captain Lindsay Tarpley raises the trophy (opposite) after scoring the winning goal in the final. (Above, from left) Kelly Wilson scored nine goals and Megan Kakadelas added another. Rachel Buehler scores from the spot against Chinese Taipei.



Lindsay Tarpley (above) and Shannon Boxx (below) used their deft skills to help the USA again win gold, while Abby Wambach (right) scored four times in the tournament including the gold-medal game-winner.



2004 Olympics

THE 2004 ATHENS GAMES WERE A FITTING END for a number of U.S. veterans, including Mia Hamm, Julie Foudy, Brandi Chastain, and Joy Fawcett, who went out of the sport as they came into it: as champions.

After struggling in group play with a disjointed 3–0 victory against host Greece and a 2–0 victory against Brazil in which the USA was outplayed for most of the game, the U.S. team then drew 1–1 with a scrappy Australia.

But the never-say-die Americans pulled it together in grand fashion, winning the final three knockout games by 2–1 scores, needing overtime in both their semifinal and final matches. Kristine Lilly, who had scored the lone goal against Australia to finish first-round play, scored the first goal in both the 2–1 quarterfinal win against Japan and the 2–1 overtime victory in the semifinal against Germany. More amazingly, the USA played one more game than its knockout-round opponents as the tournament featured 10 teams with two groups of three and one group of four.

The tournament marked the final two world-championship goals for Hamm, who tallied against Greece and Brazil, and was a huge springboard for two of the USA's future stars. Nineteen-year-old Heather O'Reilly's strike against Germany clinched the semifinal, and Abby Wambach's header off a corner kick against Brazil clinched the gold.









"The corner kick was on the left side and usually those are hit as in-swingers and that's the side I hit them from, but for some reason Kristine Lilly was closer to the corner flag and she looked at me and said, 'I'll take it.' I went to a spot at the top of the box and it was an out-swing," said Hamm. "Kristine drove the ball to the back post and we knew that their goalkeeper was a little bit aggressive off her line. Abby positioned her shoulders and body to get the ball back on frame. I think if she had driven it, gotten a good run at it, maybe it would've hit off the defender, but it was able to loop to the back post over the defender's head. It was awesome. She went crazy—we went crazy. There are so many emotions, whether it was relief or excitement and pride. For all of us, that's what you train for. It was very special."

Goalkeeper Briana Scurry (above left) leaps into the celebration, while Abby Wambach (below left) parades the flag. And the Fab Five (above)—Kristine Lilly, Mia Hamm, Julie Foudy, Brandi Chastain, and Joy Fawcett—are Olympic champions.



USA vs. Mexico September 3, 2005

THE USA'S CAMPAIGN TO QUALIFY for the 2006 FIFA World Cup was full steam ahead by the time it faced Mexico on Match Day 7 of the Final Round. With a 5–1–0 record—the sole blemish a 2–1 loss in Mexico City—a U.S. victory on September 3, 2005, would have the double advantage of booking the team's ticket to Germany while once again knocking off its biggest rival.

Building on the tradition established four years earlier, U.S. Soccer once again put the match in Columbus, Ohio, and the venue and crowd did not disappoint. With 24,685 fans rocking Columbus Crew Stadium, the United States looked comfortable from the outset. Despite entering the interval scoreless, momentum favored the home side and a breakthrough seemed only a matter of time. Steve Ralston became the unlikely hero when he bundled home a rebound in the 53rd minute, finishing off a play that began with an Eddie Lewis free kick from the right side that found Oguchi Onyewu on the back post. The defender's header caromed off the post and across the goalmouth, where Ralston made no mistake.

"Talk about being at right place at right time," Ralston said. "It all happened so quickly. Eddie Lewis got the ball to Gooch, who headed it off the post; the ball went straight across the goal and I tapped it in. Gooch did all of the hard work. It was one of the easier goals I've scored, but it was also one of the most important. I wish I could say

that I scored a screamer that hit the top corner, but just scoring to give the team the lead, the elation of scoring in a big game, and the satisfaction of qualifying for the World Cup was a great feeling."

Five minutes later, a cleverly designed corner kick combined with impeccable execution doubled the USA lead. DaMarcus Beasley played a short corner to Landon Donovan, who pushed the ball to Claudio Reyna at the top corner of the area. As defenders closed in, "Beas" darted in behind the back line, and Reyna played a perfect ball through. Slicing toward the goal, Beasley curled a shot to the far post past the helpless Oswaldo Sanchez, and the U.S. once again had the magic 2–0 lead. At the other end of the park, the stout U.S. defense allowed only two shots on goal. Perhaps personifying the USA's continuing dominance of Mexico at home was the famous Gooch "stare down" of Mexican striker Jared Borgetti, the towering defender demonstrating in no uncertain terms who ruled the roost.

The win that day marked the first time since 1934 that the United States qualified first from the region for the World Cup, and it extended the team's shutout streak to 506 minutes in the Final Round. The team went on to capture the group for the first time in history, leaving no doubt that for the time being that the "Giant of CONCACAF" wore red, white, and blue.

DaMarcus Beasley (above) and Steve Ralston (opposite, above right) scored the goals against Mexico that put the USA into the 2006 World Cup.





2007 CONCACAF Gold Cup

THE 2007 CONCACAF GOLD CUP was important for a number of reasons. Not only was the U.S. team defending its title from the 2005 Gold Cup, but also the tournament's winner qualified for the 2009 FIFA Confederations Cup in South Africa, a tournament that the United States hadn't participated in since 2003 in France. After steamrolling through the group stage without conceding a goal in three matches, the U.S. team held on for 2-1 wins in the quarterfinal against Panama and the semifinal against Canada—setting up a rumble with fierce rival Mexico in the final.

Andrés Guardado put El Tri ahead 1-0 just before halftime in front of a crowd of 60,000 largely pro-Mexico supporters at Soldier Field in Chicago. After Brian Ching earned a penalty kick for the U.S., Landon Donovan equalized from the spot in the 62nd minute, setting the table for a dramatic finish. In the 73rd minute, Donovan took a corner kick from the right side and the ball was headed out toward the top of the box by a Mexico defender—right into the path of midfielder Benny Feilhaber.

"I just positioned myself where Bob [Bradley] had placed me at the time, just outside the box on the right side," Feilhaber said. "Landon sent in an out-swing and Mexico just managed to get their head on it and clear it up in the air toward the area where I was. I was just able to set my body up in the right way to get contact on the ball and put it on the goal. I managed to do that in the nick of time, and when the ball came down I was in the perfect position for it.

"Once it left my foot, I knew I had hit it as clean as I could have. When it hit the net, it was an unbelievable moment, and even to this day I can't really remember which way I ran to celebrate at first. The feeling was amazing, knowing that we had fought hard to come back from being down 1-0 because we hadn't put together a very good first half. After that, I knew that it was 20 more minutes of hard-fought defending that we needed to do to win the Gold Cup."

The 2-1 victory helped the U.S. win back-to-back Gold Cup trophies, but also presented the team with the opportunity to make some noise on the international stage in 2009—which is exactly what it did, eventually ending world No. 1-ranked Spain's 35-match unbeaten streak and grabbing a 2-0 lead against Brazil in the Confederations Cup final before suffering a dramatic 3-2 loss.

"Every player wanted to give the team the opportunity to play against such good teams one year before the World Cup in South Africa," said Feilhaber. "To be able to play Brazil, Spain, Egypt, and the other top teams that were there—it was one of the big goals. Winning the Gold Cup was big in itself, but winning it to move on to play in the Confederations Cup was just as important for us. It was a big moment, and from that we were able to do something special in the Confederations Cup as well."

Benny Feilhaber (above) exults in his Gold Cup-winning goal.



2008 FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup

THE 2008 U.S. UNDER-20 WOMEN'S WORLD CUP TEAM put together one of the most complete performances ever for a U.S. team at a world championship event, scoring 12 goals while allowing just 3 on the way to a 2-1 victory over defending U-20 world champions Korea DPR in the title game. The fans in Chile adopted the U.S. team during the tournament, with the players having once-in-a-lifetime experiences during the first-ever FIFA Women's World Cup in South America.

Forwards Sydney Leroux and Alex Morgan had fantastic tournaments, accounting for 9 of the USA's 12 goals. The team took home an unprecedented amount of hardware as Leroux won the Golden Ball as the best player in the tournament and the Golden Shoe as the top scorer with five goals. Morgan, who scored four times, won the Silver Ball and the Bronze Shoe, while goalkeeper Alyssa Naehrer, who allowed just one goal over the five brilliant matches in which she played, took home the Golden Glove. The USA also won the FIFA Fair Play Award.

"I don't think we could have had a better experience in Chile during the 2008 Women's World Cup," Morgan said. "We had a great coaching staff and all the girls got along so well. At that point in our careers, we were juggling college soccer, our academics, and being on the National Team, so being able to come together so well and win the tournament while we had so much going on was huge for us. I give a lot of credit to all the girls for having that balance to be able to focus entirely on the tournament and perform at the level needed to win a world title. That group was so special because everyone wanted to win so badly, not just for ourselves but for our team, the coaching staff, and all the hard work we put into that journey. We wanted to enjoy that experience and win it together."



In the championship game, Leroux scored a fantastic goal from distance in the 23rd minute and Morgan added another brilliant long-range strike just before halftime. The dangerous North Koreans attacked with fervor, but the U.S. defense stayed strong, led by center backs Nikki Marshall and Lauren Fowlkes. The Asian champions did pull a goal back in the second minute of second-half stoppage time, but the Americans would lift the trophy in front of an appreciative crowd in Santiago.



Sydney Leroux (*opposite left and below right*) was a scoring powerhouse and took home the Golden Boot with 5 goals in the tournament. Alex Morgan (*below right*), with four, won the Bronze.







2008 Olympics

MANY COUNTED THE USA OUT OF THE 2008 OLYMPIC GAMES in China after leading scorer Abby Wambach broke her leg just days before the U.S. team left for China, and then the Americans fell 2–0 to Norway in the opening match. The Americans would rebound to make an impressive run to the Olympic gold medal as Angela Hucles, who had scored just five career goals heading into 2008, scored four times in the tournament to help reach the top of the podium. In the gold medal game, the USA avenged a loss to Brazil the year before at the Women's World Cup with a dramatic 1–0 overtime victory in Beijing as Carli Lloyd fired in the winning goal from just outside the penalty area.

"Going into the Olympics knowing we weren't going to have our biggest goal scorer for the biggest tournament was a challenge," said Hucles. "After losing the first match, every moment from then on out, going into each game, we had to really focus. We came together as a team and that's what the U.S. Women's National Team has been about and why we've had so much success. We had so many different people come together. The fact that we weren't focused on one player made us a bit more unpredictable and that was maybe a positive for us as players and for the coaching staff. Our preparation and belief in ourselves helped to overcome any type of fear or doubt and we knew what we had to do every time we stepped on the field.

"After we won the gold medal, what sticks out are the smiles on my teammates' faces. When I think back on it, I can see Carli Lloyd's face, I can see Heather O'Reilly's face, I can see all the coaches and the coaching staff jumping up and down on the sidelines, celebrating. For me, the strongest memory is seeing the joy and the celebration on my teammates' and coaching staff's faces."



Angela Hucles (*above left*) powered her way past defenders, and Carli Lloyd (*above right*) celebrated her Olympic gold medal-winning goal. Natasha Kai and Heather O'Reilly (*opposite*) leap to celebrate the gold medal.

que podesen afortunadamente
a la casa de la plaza,
entonces se cumplirá la
profecía de la casa.





2009 FIFA Confederations Cup

With a goal by ADLEY'S SOGO in the 80th minute of the 2009 FIFA Confederations Cup, the opportunity is viewed both as a chance to place himself among the elite and to get a jump on the South African team for the World Cup. It's a chance to make a statement.

The risk ahead was substantial. The U.S. team, which had been in the B-1000 group, was not expected to win the World Cup. The U.S. team, which had been in the B-1000 group, was not expected to win the World Cup. The U.S. team, which had been in the B-1000 group, was not expected to win the World Cup.

Now, given the chance to make a statement, the U.S. team, which had been in the B-1000 group, was not expected to win the World Cup. The U.S. team, which had been in the B-1000 group, was not expected to win the World Cup. The U.S. team, which had been in the B-1000 group, was not expected to win the World Cup.

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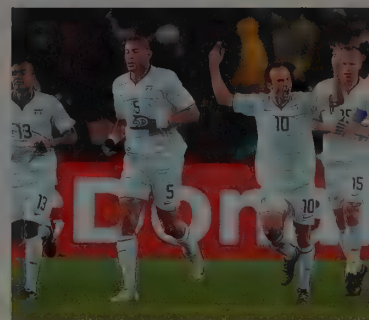




The defending European champions entered the game on a 35-match unbeaten run that spanned three years. Combining steely determination with effective attacks, the U.S. team kept the Spaniards at bay and took the lead in the 27th minute when Jozy Altidore held off his marker and beat Iker Casillas to the near post. With Tim Howard piling up eight saves and with defenders denying opportunities by any means necessary, Clint Dempsey made a head's-up play in the box and netted the second goal for the United States. The team walked off the field in Bloemfontein with one of the greatest triumphs in U.S. soccer history, and set up a date with Brazil in the United States' first-ever appearance in the final of a major FIFA tournament.

As the world watched in stunned admiration, goals from Dempsey and Landon Donovan had the U.S. ahead 2-0 at the break. The Brazilians showed their class by scoring just after the second-half whistle and relentlessly pushing forward, eventually finding the tying goal in the 74th minute and the winner six minutes from time. Tim Howard earned the Golden Gloves and Dempsey the Bronze Ball for the tournament, and the nation won its best finish at a FIFA event.

Clint Dempsey (above, and above left) was a mighty presence, scoring three goals including the second against number-one ranked Spain. Jay DeMerit (below left) played every minute of the tournament. Landon Donovan (right) leads the celebrations.







USA vs. Honduras October 10, 2009

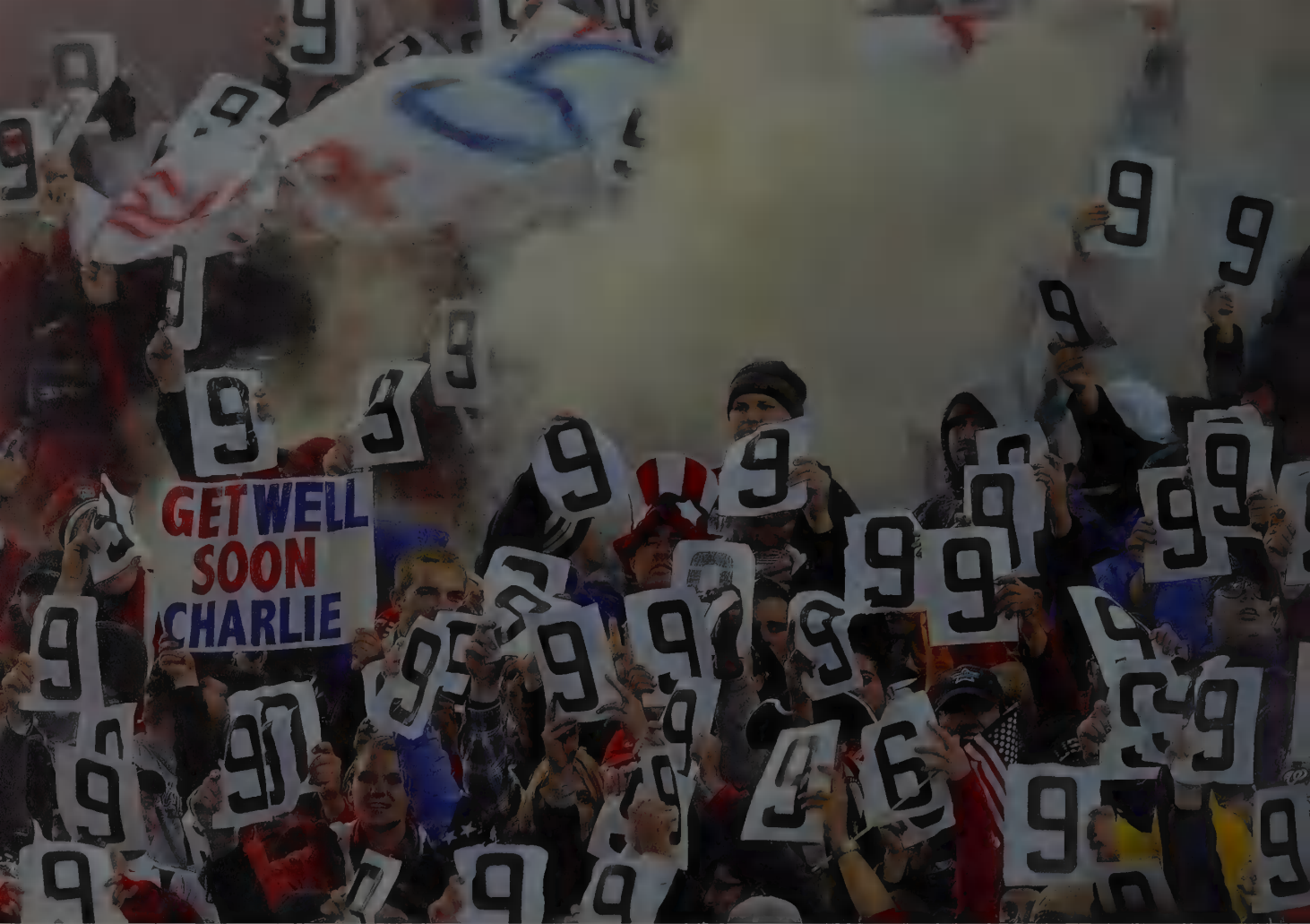
USA vs. Costa Rica October 14, 2009

THE UNITED STATES ENTERED THE LAST TWO MATCHES of the Final Round of qualifications for the 2010 FIFA World Cup in first place in the group; they knew that a victory would put them through to South Africa, but that they also were facing two major obstacles. The first hurdle was a road game against a Honduras team that had gone unbeaten at home throughout the qualifying matches. That was followed by a potential do-or-die match in at RFK Stadium in Washington, D.C., for a Costa Rica team desperate to get back to the World Cup.

More than 45,000 fans packed the stadium on October 10, 2009, in San Pedro Sula in Honduras, and the place was literally rocking an hour before kickoff. U.S. head coach Bob Bradley elected to start Conor Casey up top, despite the fact that the forward had yet to score for the United States. That was about to change in a big way.

A scoreless first half saw chances for both sides, but Honduras electrified the crowd just two minutes past halftime when Julio Cesar de Leon bent a free kick up and down over the wall, which put the hosts up 1-0 in the 47th minute. The deafening roar turned into astonished silence eight minutes later when Casey rose for a challenge in the area and out-jumped goalkeeper Noel Valladares to level the score. The crowd was stunned even further in the 66th minute when Casey latched on to a beauty of a pass from Landon Donovan and slotted home the go-ahead goal. Not to be outdone, Donovan whipped a perfectly placed free kick into the far corner in the 71st minute and suddenly a trip to South Africa was within their grasp.

The locker room was a festive sight after the win in Honduras, secured by two goals from Conor Casey (above) and one from Landon Donovan.



The grip loosened after Honduras cut the lead in half with 12 minutes to play, and then a handball in the area called against Stuart Holden in the 87th minute teed up a humungous chance for Honduras while sending the blood pressure of U.S. fans soaring. Carlos Pavon, who had converted a PK against the USA in qualifying eight years earlier, sent his shot sailing over the crossbar. When the final whistle blew, the U.S. team exploded in celebration as their dream of reaching the World Cup had come true, and Honduras stood on the brink of elimination. However, the story for both teams had yet to be completed.

Having secured a berth in South Africa, the USA's final order of business was to finish in first place in the group, while Costa Rica needed a win to guarantee a place of its own. In order for Honduras to qualify that day, they needed to win against El Salvador and for the U.S. to at least tie against Costa Rica. While winning the group was important, the U.S. coaches and players were playing with heavy hearts, as forward Charlie Davies was in critical condition at a local hospital, having been in a car accident two days earlier.

The Ticos came out guns blazing, and two fantastic finishes by Bryan Ruiz in a four-minute span had the USA down a pair of goals by the 25th minute. As they had done so often throughout the campaign, the U.S. team banded together and clawed back in, Michael Bradley pulling the score within one in the 72nd minute. The hosts were reduced to 10 men after Oguchi Onyewu injured his knee and all three substitutions had been exhausted. That, of course, only added to the drama of what was to come.

In the fifth minute of stoppage time, the U.S. earned a corner kick and a last chance at salvaging a draw. Honduras had secured its victory against El Salvador and watched helplessly as the U.S. trailed Costa Rica with only seconds remaining. Their despair turned to joy when Jonathan Bornstein, who ventured into the penalty area on a whim, headed home the delivery from Robbie Rogers to even the match at 2-2, setting off a jubilant celebration of U.S. fans at

RFK Stadium and in the streets of Honduras thousands of miles away. On an emotional night for the U.S. team, the tie ensured first place in the group for the second straight cycle and lifted Honduras into their first World Cup in 28 years. Bornstein became an instant celebrity in Honduras, receiving an invitation to visit from the Honduran president. There is even a Facebook page dedicated to him called "Gracias Jonathan Bornstein."

"It's just a soccer goal, but it's so important to so many people," Bornstein said. "I was just trying to help the U.S. win the group, and it affected an entire other nation. That's the beauty of soccer. It's truly the world's sport."

The fans at RFK Stadium (above) showed their support for the injured Charlie Davies by standing and cheering during the entire ninth minute of the USA's qualifying match against Costa Rica. Two views (right) of Jonathan Bornstein's stunning injury time goal.



CASE george SELKIRK





2012 FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup

JAPAN STAGED THE SIXTH WOMEN'S WORLD CUP for the first time, and it didn't take long for FIFA to move its focus to the U.S. for the 2012 U.S. Under-20 Women's World Cup. The U.S. team, which had won the title in 1991, was the defending champion. The USA started with a 4-0 victory against Liberia in May. They then recorded a hat-trick. The margin of victory in the final was 2-0, with the USA advancing to the final. The margin of victory in the final was 2-0, with the USA advancing to the final. The margin of victory in the final was 2-0, with the USA advancing to the final.

Approximately 31,000 fans at the stadium in Tokyo, Japan, watched the final. The USA team, which had won the title in 1991, was the defending champion. The USA started with a 4-0 victory against Liberia in May. They then recorded a hat-trick. The margin of victory in the final was 2-0, with the USA advancing to the final. The margin of victory in the final was 2-0, with the USA advancing to the final. The margin of victory in the final was 2-0, with the USA advancing to the final.

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"These are the best players in the world," said FIFA President Joseph S. Blatter. "The USA team, which had won the title in 1991, was the defending champion. The USA started with a 4-0 victory against Liberia in May. They then recorded a hat-trick. The margin of victory in the final was 2-0, with the USA advancing to the final. The margin of victory in the final was 2-0, with the USA advancing to the final. The margin of victory in the final was 2-0, with the USA advancing to the final."







Alex Morgan's 123rd minute goal versus Canada, shown here in sequence, put the Women's National Team into another Olympic final.

2012 Olympics

THE UNITED STATES WENT UNDEFEATED AT THE 2012 OLYMPICS, becoming the first team to win all six matches during an Olympic women's soccer tournament. The USA had a shock start to the competition, falling behind 2–0 to France after just 14 minutes in the opening match, but it battled back to win 4–2.

"The corner kick goal that we scored to make it 2–1 against France was a defining moment for us," Abby Wambach said. "At that point, the tournament could have gone in a different direction. We gave up early two goals and lost Shannon Boxx to an injury, but that goal and Alex's goal that tied it sent us moving in a positive direction. All the things that happened from that point on went our way and there was a common belief among everybody that we could win."

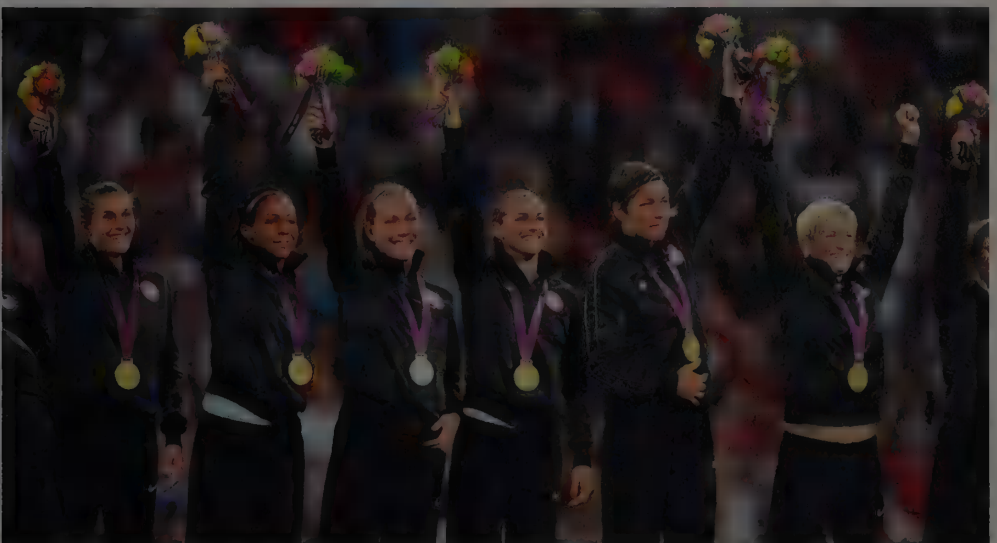
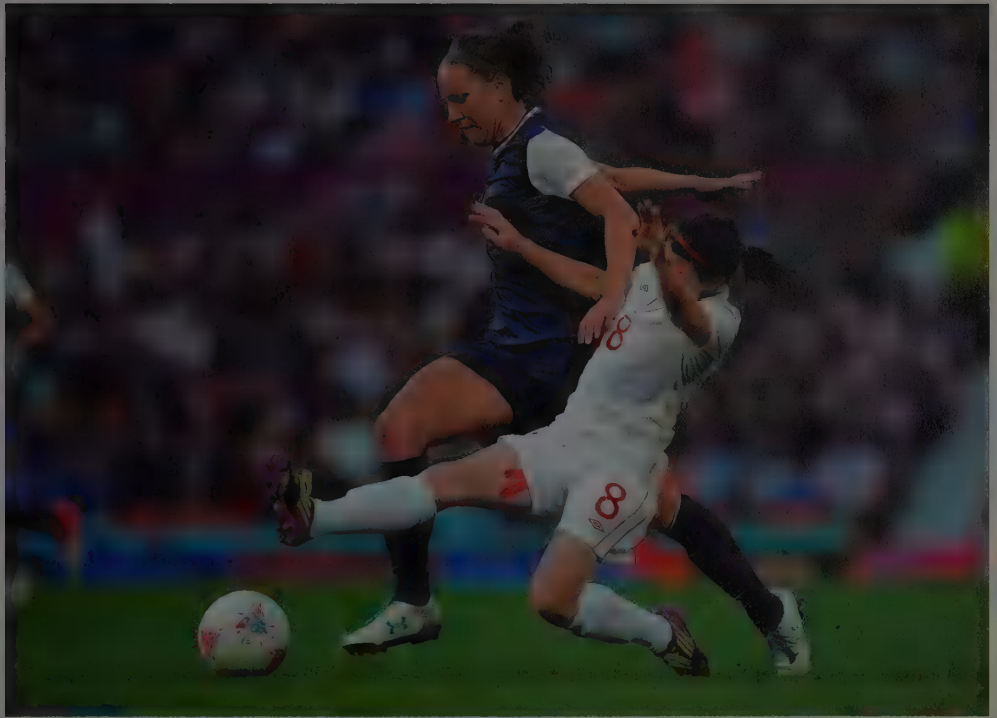
The USA then defeated Colombia and Korea DPR in group play before downing New Zealand in the quarterfinal and Canada in a dramatic 4–3 semifinal triumph. The USA then beat Japan 2–1 in the gold medal game at a sold-out Wembley Stadium in front of 80,203 fans, as midfielder Carli Lloyd scored both goals. Wambach scored in the first five games of the tournament, the only U.S. player ever to accomplish that feat.

"What was really special about the 2012 Olympics was that it was really a complete team effort from every perspective," Wambach said. "Different players stepped up in different moments. We had a unique opportunity to keep the buzz of women's soccer going and that was going to be a difficult task considering how good the competition was. We made women's soccer exciting for the mainstream public to watch again. For me, that's one of our biggest accomplishments. We can talk about the gold medal all day long but what we are really trying to do is grow the sport. The 2012 Olympics took what we did in 2011 and built on it, and that gives us hope for the future."





Carli Lloyd (far left) scored the gold medal-winning goal in the second straight Olympic Games; Hope Solo (left), Megan Rapinoe (above), and Lauren Cheney (below) all rose to the occasion.







The U.S. Soccer Federation

U.S. SOCCER PRESIDENTS

1913-15	Gustav Randolph Manning
1915-17	John A. Fernley
1917-19	Peter J. Peel
1919-23	George Healey
1923-24	Peter J. Peel
1924-26	Morris W. Johnson
1926-28	Andrew M. Brown
1928-32	Armstrong Patterson
1932-34	Elmer A. Schroeder
1934-36	Joseph J. Barriskill
1936-38	Joseph Triner
1938-41	Harold S. Callowhill
1941-45	Thomas E. Sager
1945-48	Harry H. Fairfield
1948-50	Walter J. Geisler
1950-52	Fred W. Netto
1952-54	James P. McGuire
1954-57	Edward Sullivan
1957-59	Walter Rechsteiner
1959-61	Jack Flamhaft
1961-63	J. Eugene Ringsdorf
1963-65	George E. Fishwick
1965-67	Frank E. Woods
1967-69	Robert Guelker
1969-71	Erwin A. Single
1971-75	James P. McGuire
1975-84	Gene Edwards
1984-90	Werner Fricker
1990-98	Alan I. Rothenberg
1998-2006	Dr. S. Robert Contiguglia
2006-present	Sunil Gulati

MEN'S NATIONAL TEAM COACHES

YEARS	COACH	W	L	T
1971-72	Bob Kehoe	0	3	1
1973	Max Wosniak	0	2	0
1973	Gene Chyzowych	3	2	0
1973	Gordon Bradley	0	5	0
1974	Dettmar Cramer	0	2	0
1975	Al Miller	0	2	0
1975	Manfred Schellscheidt	0	3	0
1976-80	Walt Chyzowych	8	14	10
1982	Bob Gansler	1	0	0
1983-85	Alkis Panagoulis	6	5	7
1986-88	Lothar Osiander	4	9	5
1989-91	Bob Gansler	14	16	6
1991	John Kowalski	1	0	1
1991-95	Bora Milutinovic	30	35	31
1995-98	Steve Sampson	26	22	14
1998-2006	Bruce Arena	71	30	29
2007-11	Bob Bradley	43	25	12
2011-2012	Jurgen Klinsmann	11	6	4

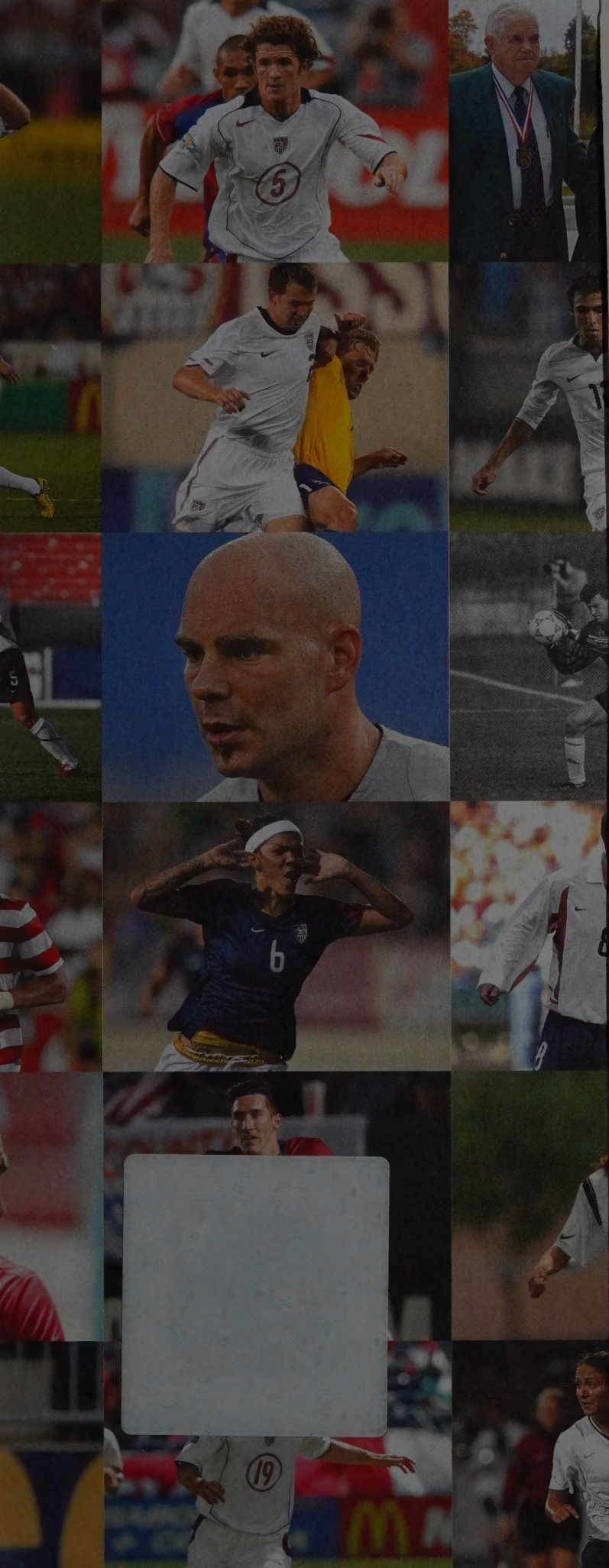
WOMEN'S NATIONAL TEAM COACHES

YEARS	COACH	W	L	T
1985	Mike Ryan	0	3	1
1986-94	Anson Dorrance	65	22	5
1995-99	Tony DiCicco	103	8	8
2000	Lauren Gregg	2	0	1
2000-04	April Heinrichs	87	17	20
2005-07	Greg Ryan	45	1	9
2008-12	Pia Sundhage	91	6	10

U.S. SOCCER GENERAL SECRETARIES

1913-21	Tom Cahill
1921-22	James E. Scholefield
1922-24	Tom Cahill
1924-26	Andrew M. Brown
1926-27	James Armstrong
1927-30	Tom Cahill
1930-43	James Armstrong
1943-71	Joseph Barriskill
1971-87	Kurt Lamm
1987-90	Keith Walker
1990-2000	Hank Steinbrecher
2000-present	Dan Flynn





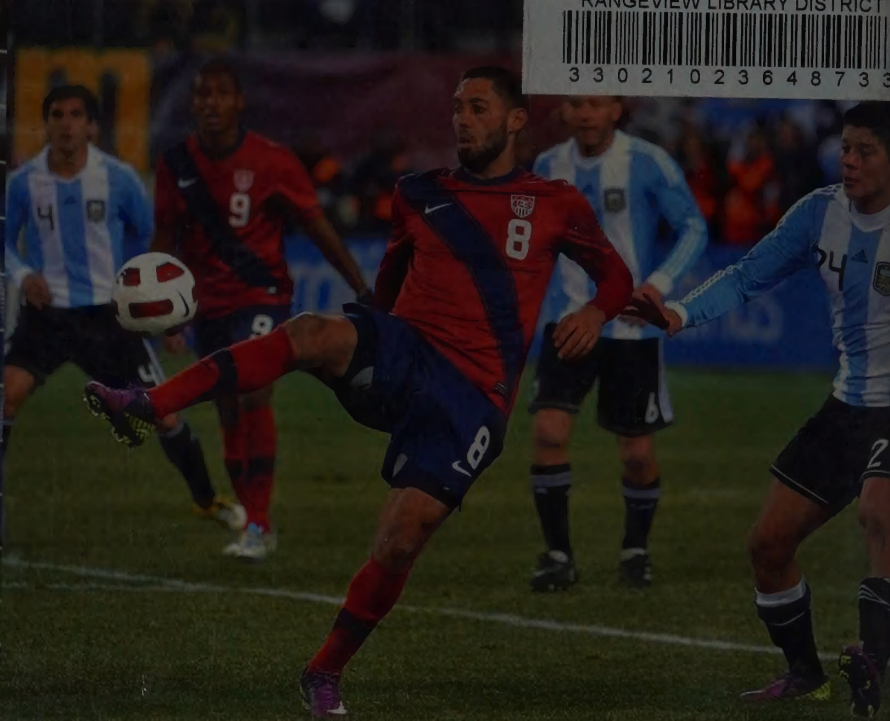
FOUNDED IN 1913, THE U.S. SOCCER FEDERATION is the non-for-profit, governing body of soccer in the United States and has helped chart the course for the sport for 100 years. During this time, the Federation's mission statement has been clear and simple: to make soccer, in all its forms, a pre-eminent sport in the United States and to continue the development of soccer at all recreational and competitive levels. To that end, the sport's development and growth in the United States during the past 25 years has been nothing short of remarkable, as U.S. Soccer's National Teams have continually succeeded on the world stage and, with the assistance of its members, fan support and participation in the game continue to reach new heights. For more information, visit ussoccer.com.

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